PRACTICAL HOUSEHOLDER

JUNE 1968 2/-

HOME IMPROVEMENTS NUMBER

POOLS & FISHPONDS, TERRACES & FENCES, GARDEN SEATS, PAVING

SPECIAL OUTDOOR

SUN-LOUNGE WITH FOUNTAIN

Also Inside

Dinner Wagon to build

Plaster Linings for the Amateur

Be an Expert at Soldering

"I chose the best venetian blinds and fitted them myself!"

Thousands and thousands of delighted homelovers all over the country are saying that today. You could say the same knowing that not only had you saved money by fitting them yourself, but that you also had the finest venetian blinds which money can buy.

Quill blinds are carefully made to your window measurements and supplied complete with full and clear fixing instructions. They are robustly constructed by a British firm backed by over 100 years experience and will give years of trouble free service.

Give your home all the advantages which venetian blinds afford—protection against strong sunlight, privacy, draught prevention and neat, attractive windows.

Fill in the coupon and post now for coloured leaflet giving full details of colours available and prices, together with measurement chart.

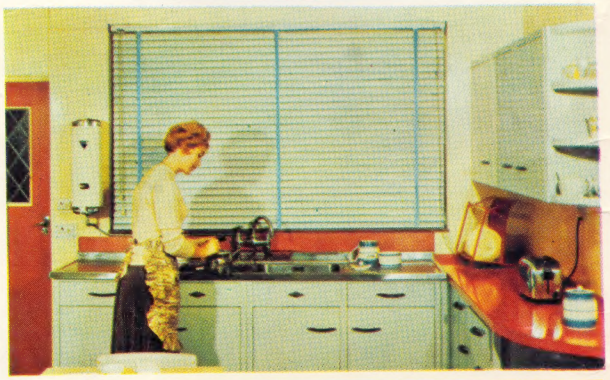
Quill stands for quality—the quality essential in venetian blinds—the quality unobtainable at a lower price anywhere.

CHOOSE Quill

and you get:-

- Heavy gauge galvanised steel headmember concealing the mechanism.
- Robust bottom rail scientifically designed against sag.
- Super Flexible Corrosion Resistant Slats.
- Braided Nylon Cords.
- 100% Terylene ladder-webs.
- Crash-proof Cord Lock.
- Solid Nylon Gears.

Quill *the best Venetian in the world!*



To QUILLVEN LTD., MAIDENHEAD, BERKS.
Please send me your full colour leaflet giving details of slat and tape colours available, prices and simple measurement chart, together with name of nearest dealer.

Quill Blinds -British throughout, approved to British Standard BS.3415

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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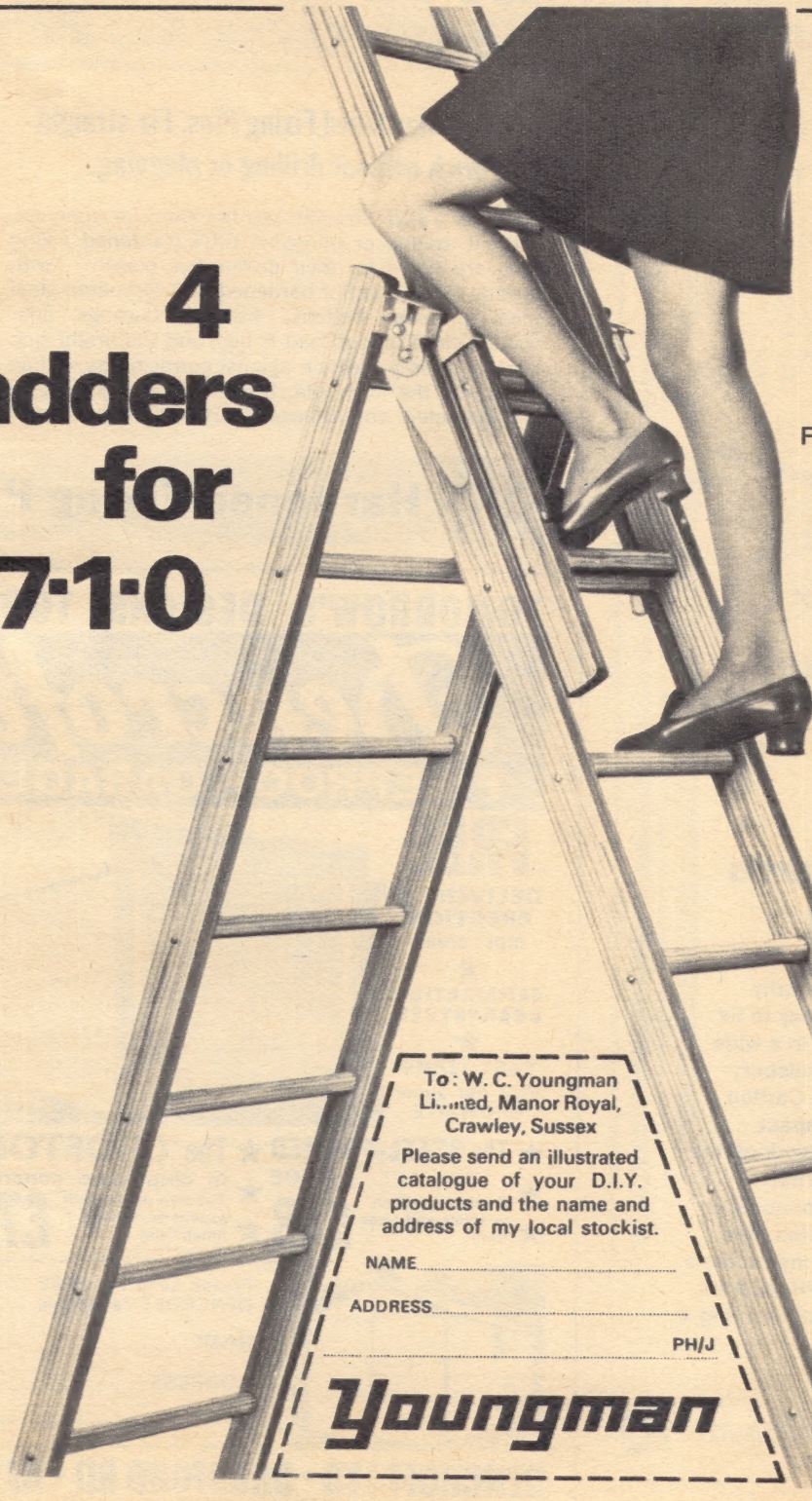
P.H.3.

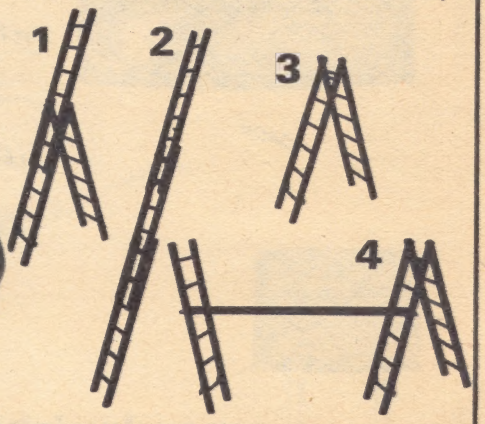
D.I.Y.

* Do it with Youngman



4 ladders for £7·1·0

Four ladders in one, for every job around the house. The Youngman Fourway is the most versatile ladder you can buy. As an extension ladder, it is ideal for all outdoor decorating and maintenance. At the same time, it is a loft ladder, a pair of steps or a trestle unit. With a Fourway you can reach every part of the house from eaves to ceilings and walls, even awkward places like stairwells. It comes in three sizes: 5 ft. 6 in. closed (12 ft. 2 in. extended), 6 ft. 4 in. (14 ft. 6 in.) and 7 ft. 2 in. (17 ft. 0 in.). It will last you for years. Make a start today with a Youngman Fourway – the safest ladder you can buy!



The Fourway comes in two models: *Fourway Silver Rung* (Patent No. 1092466) with alloy rungs and white nylon coated fittings, from **£8.14.0.**; *Fourway Super Warrior* with round hardwood rungs, each reinforced with a steel rod, and zinc plated fittings, from **£7.1.0.** Both have strong varnished stiles and the same unique hinge design which allows them to change from one job to another in seconds. *Youngman make a lot of other things you will find indispensable about the house. For full details see your local stockist or post this coupon today – it'll bring you all the answers!*

To: W. C. Youngman Limited, Manor Royal, Crawley, Sussex

Please send an illustrated catalogue of your D.I.Y. products and the name and address of my local stockist.

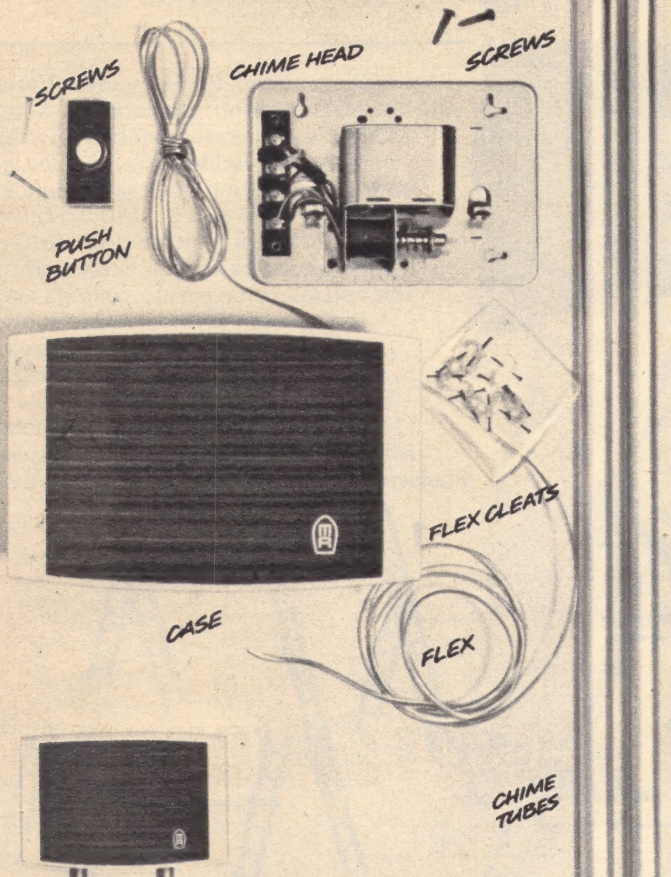
NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

..... PH/J

Youngman

piece them all together and what have you got?

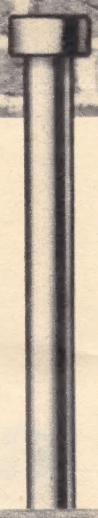


a morphy richards dorchester chime

Take a few notes from Morphy Richards door chimes. Easy to fix and to install, they come in a wide range: Dorchester and Salisbury are elegant tube chimes, Carlton and Exeter are neat, compact bar chimes, and all four work off their own batteries or an external transformer. Buy them complete or in kit form, with push button, flex, staples and screws. Full instructions supplied with every kit. Prices from just £1.18s.10d. Doesn't all that ring a bell somewhere?

morphy richards *for switched on homes*

If you're up against a brick wall.



Use GKN Hardened Fixing Pins. Fix straight into brick without drilling or plugging.

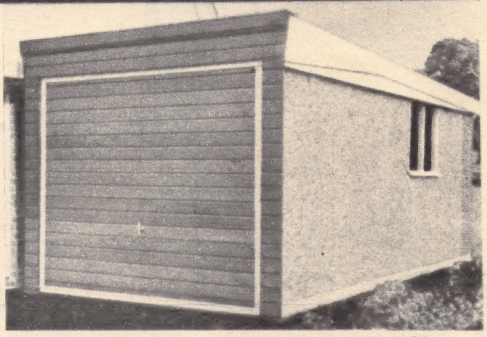
Hammer away. Straight into brickwork or concrete, without drilling or plugging. GKN Hardened Fixing Pins are noted for their penetrative powers — with special drive point of hardened and tempered steel ideal for fixing battens, trellises, skirtings, door frames etc. 'Pull out' load is high and the bright zinc coating gives protection against corrosion as well as improving the firm hold. Sizes from ¾ in to 4 ins, in two diameters and in boxes of 100 or pre-packed.

GKN Hardened Fixing Pins

TOMORROW'S DESIGNS TODAY!

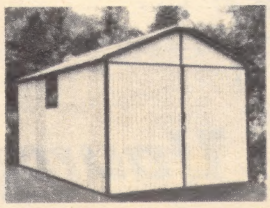
Dencroft
FIREPROOF GARAGES

FREE
DELIVERY & ERECTION most areas
★
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
★
EASY TERMS
Visit our super SHOWSITE



★ The STEEL-FRAMED RANGE ★
A wide selection in styles and sizes from **£48**

★ The 'CROFTON' in chip-faced concrete ★
The new model with expensive-looking finish from **£76**



Please send me FREE DENCROFT catalogue.
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
_____
26

DENCROFT LTD • BRADFORD RD • BATLEY

A little help from 3M ... can make a lot of difference

The new 'Sand-Pak' Sanding Kit

... will give you all the help you need to do the best of home decorating jobs. This helpful 3M kit contains a whole range of abrasive papers to enable you to tackle any kind of sanding job you come across.

The abrasive paper in the 'Sand-Pak' Kit is the finest on the market. It's exactly the same as paper used for tough jobs in industry—and it lasts many, many times longer than ordinary sandpaper.

The 'Sand-Pak' Kit contains three grades (coarse, medium, fine) of 'Production' Paper—made with aluminium oxide, the hardest, toughest abrasive there is.

PLUS the famous 'Wetordry' Waterproof Paper.

PLUS a handy light-weight sanding block.

Each grade of paper is also available in a separate 'Sand-Pak'.

The 'Sand-Pak' Kit is just one of the useful products 3M makes for the home decorator. Other fine products include:

'PRODUCTION' PAPER SANDING DISCS

'SCOTCH' MASKING TAPES

'SCOTCHBRITE' DECORATOR'S SPONGE SCOURER

'SCOTCH' PROTECTOR PADS

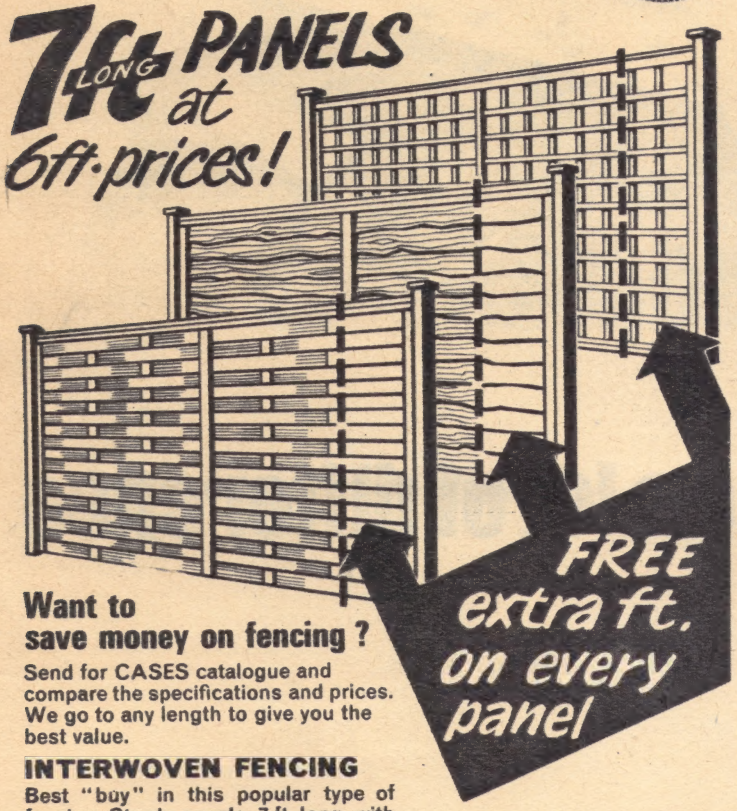
3M COMPANY

You'll find all these 3M Decorators' Products at your local hardware store.

3M and all words in quotation marks are trademarks.

It must be CASES OF TAFFS WELL good fencing

7ft LONG PANELS at 6ft-prices!



Want to save money on fencing?

Send for CASES catalogue and compare the specifications and prices. We go to any length to give you the best value.

INTERWOVEN FENCING

Best "buy" in this popular type of fencing. Sturdy panels, 7 ft. long, with close interlocking weave and extra-thick gravel board. Creosoted.

2 ft × 7 ft - 17/- 3 ft × 7 ft - 21/6
4 ft × 7 ft - 26/6 5 ft × 7 ft - 32/-
6 ft × 7 ft - 37/6 per panel.

RUSTIC LAP FENCING

Attractive, peep-proof fencing panels 7 ft. long. Overlapping bark-edged boards on strong frames, strongly battened for rigidity. Creosoted.

3 ft × 7 ft - 27/- 4 ft × 7 ft - 33/-
5 ft × 7 ft - 40/- 6 ft × 7 ft - 45/-

POSTS: 3" × 2½" including caps and nails
5 ft - 7/-, 6 ft - 8/-, 7 ft - 9/-,
8 ft - 10/-, 9 ft - 11/- each.

MATCHING GATES AND TRELLIS PANELS ALSO AVAILABLE.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE.

CASH OR EASY TERMS.

FREE DELIVERY ENGLAND/WALES (mainland).
Under £7 send 10/- carriage.

Send for FREE catalogue NOW!

To: E. C. CASES LTD. 324 Taffs Well, Glam.
Please send me your FENCING catalogue, free

Name .....

Address .....

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EVERYTHING YOU COULD WISH FOR IN A MODERN KITCHEN

LOW COST LUXURY OUT OF A PACK!

Here's how architects and builders have been achieving low cost quality kitchens.
Here's Compact—high quality kitchen furniture that's luxury in everything but price. Compact:- superbly finished in a choice of colours including woodgrain, with Arborite, Warerite or Formica worktops. Compact has sink units: floor units: wall units: tall units.

What's Compact's secret?

Knockdown units that bolt together in minutes into rigid good looking kitchens—no fiddling—no painting! Just a few turns with a screwdriver turns a dream into reality!

With Compact you don't compromise—you capitalize!

GROVEWOOD COMPACT

Send the coupon. Or see this Compact quality at your nearest builders' merchants or departmental store.

TO GROVEWOOD PRODUCTS LTD., TIPTON, STAFFS.
I would like to know how Compact can give me such quality at such low prices.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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NEAREST TOWN .....

R.89 PH6

The Sun Valley crowd seen here at Alexandra Park

We're the experts!

(and we know which handrolling tobacco to put our money on).

Men who know what handrolling is all about put their money on just one kind of handrolling tobacco: Sun Valley, from Player's. Sun Valley is a mellow blend of fine-cut tobaccos. Long-stranded. Moist. It gives a man grand flavour and a really good smoke.

6/5 per oz.

SUN VALLEY has the grand taste of fine tobacco—wouldn't that suit you better?

SVT67H

You love an open fire Yet you want central heating

What do you do?

Have it both ways with BAXI!

Only a crackling open fire can give you real, open-hearted *radiant* warmth. That's why we didn't put the BAXI Burnall behind glass. Yet the Baxi Burnall can also give you whole house warmth, hot water at every tap, all the mod. con. of central heating.
To turn a Baxi Burnall into a central heating system, just add a high-efficiency Baxi Radiator Output Boiler, 5 or 6 radiators, and a towel rail. The whole system costs little more to run than an ordinary open fire. Surprised? Let us tell you more. Post the coupon now.

BAXI FIRE DEPT. P.H.12
BAMBER BRIDGE, LANCASHIRE.

Please tell me more about the Baxi Burnall Open Fire and central heating.

NAME ..... (Mr./Mrs./Miss)
(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

ADDRESS .....

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snowcem

saves you pounds and pounds!

It costs surprisingly little to give your house a weatherproof finish with Snowcem. Take this cement rendered house. With ordinary paint it might cost you anything up to £25 in materials alone. For two coats the Snowcem would cost you only about £5. So why use anything other than Snowcem for a long-lasting weatherproof decorative finish you can be proud of? The effect is dazzling!

Send for Colour Chart and leaflet to SNOWCEM SERVICE Dept. PH3, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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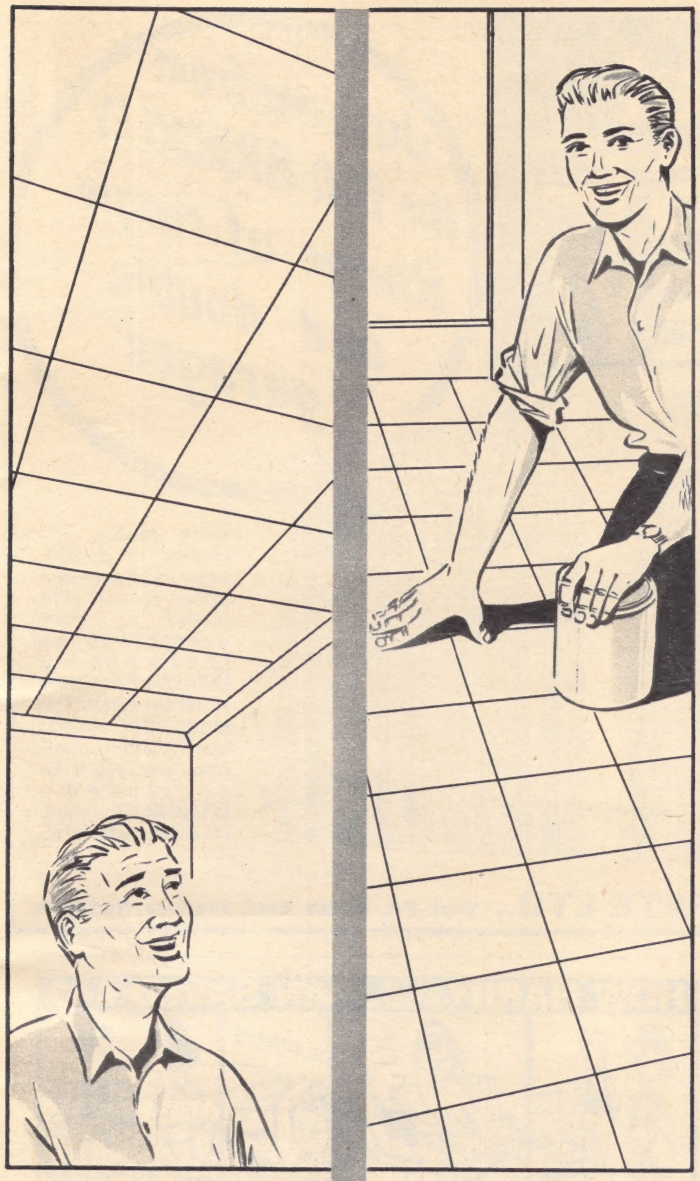
THE EFFECT IS DAZZLING!



The perfect adhesive for ceiling tiles

To get good professional-looking results with expanded polystyrene tiles on your ceilings, you must use an adhesive that's made for the job. Plycol 1212 is the answer. Clean to use, you just apply it in five spots to each tile and press it to the ceiling. It adheres immediately, yet allows you time to adjust the position precisely. You can also use 1212 for applying insulation board and cork sheet to concrete, brick, plaster and wood. In tins and tubes from D.I.Y. shops and Builders' Merchants

The perfect adhesive for vinyl flooring

Whether for vinyl tiles or sheet, Plycol Vinyl Adhesive is the easiest of all to use. Clean and light in colour, you spread it with a notched trowel and apply the tiles or sheet while the adhesive is still wet. You get the best possible results with the least trouble. You can use it to lay Vinyl flooring direct to wood, hardboard or concrete. A one-gallon tin is sufficient for approximately 20-25 square yards. Full instructions are on the tin.
Obtainable from D.I.Y. shops and Builders' Merchants.

PLYCOL-MONTGOMERIE LTD.

Dundee Road, Trading Estate, Slough, Bucks.

CHESTER BELFAST HAMILTON DUBLIN

don't save money by just buying whitewood

save money, time and effort by buying WINCHMORE

WHY? Because Winchmore Whitewood is superfine sanded to a finish that would take you hours of patient work to achieve, and every item is polythene wrapped to ensure that you get the full benefit of this finish. There are more than 140 items of Kitchen, Bedroom and Occasional Furniture available, all fully assembled and ready to paint. Why not send for a Free Illustrated Catalogue with pages of suggested layouts for 'Built In' Kitchen and Bedroom Units and see why we say

WHEN YOU BUY WHITEWOOD BUY WHITEWOOD BY WINCHMORE

PLEASE SEND ME A FREE ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE

Name.....

Address.....

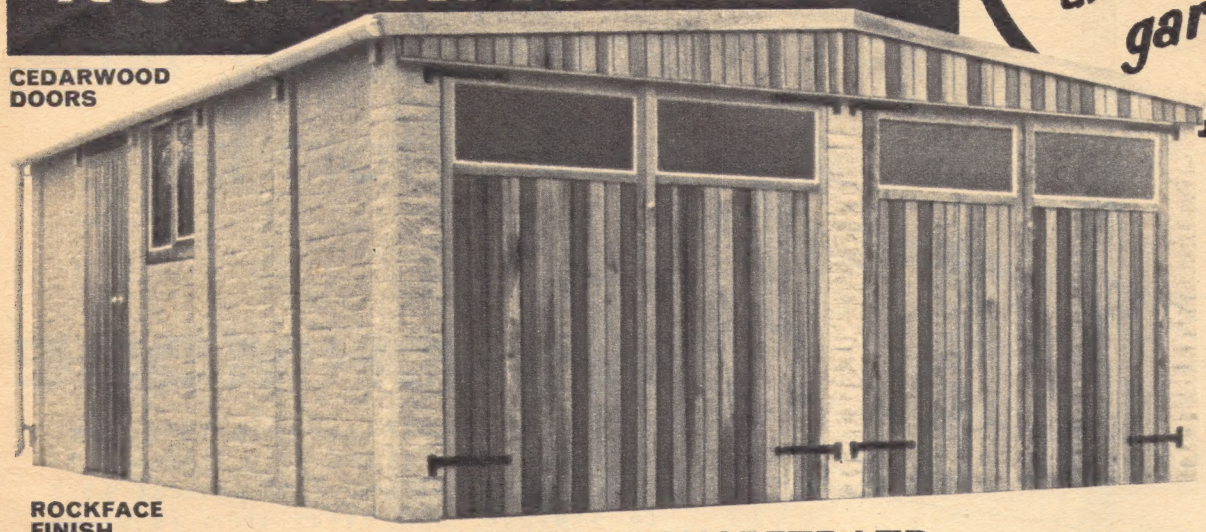
..... PH3

FREE WINCHMORE WHITEWOOD LTD., INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MILDENHALL, SUFFOLK.

Such LUXURY at such LOW COST– it's a BRACKLEY!

Just one from the BIG BRACKLEY Range of single and double garages

CEDARWOOD DOORS



ROCKFACE FINISH

Extra roomy, exclusive in design, easy to erect—and priced to suit *your* pocket . . . there's everything to recommend a BRACKLEY. Send NOW for catalogue, study the quality specification, compare and you'll be convinced—BRACKLEY value is unbeatable.

BRACKLEY CONCRETE LTD., Dept. PH, Hinton Road, Brackley, Northants.

90ft. of clothes line -in 3 sq. yds. of garden!

Monday is a merry-go-round with a Whirline rotary clothes line. It does away with pillar-to-post line and prop. Saves work; you can hang out your entire wash standing in one place. No walking. No carrying. The Whirline's 3 supporting arms give you 90 ft. of line in under 3 sq. yds! The centre post fits into a socket concreted into the ground—easy work for D.I.Y-ers. And because the Whirline rotates in the breeze, you get a much faster *and* fresher dry. **Standard model for under £6.** (Ask about a sun canopy for your Whirline, too!) From most Hardware and Department Stores. Free leaflet from: **Dept. PH5, F.W. Hipkin Ltd., Wingfield Works, Wingfield Road, Stratford, E.15. 01-534 2093/4/5.**

WHIRLINE *KEEPS A GARDEN LOOKING LIKE A GARDEN – NOT LIKE A LAUNDRY!*

HOW HARRY and JOAN SAVED £42

BUT I CAN'T AFFORD £50 FOR A NEW SUITE

LOOK! A COMPLETE SUITE OF STRETCH COVERS 7½ GNS.

FOR PATTERNS AND PRICES

DARLING! WHAT A LARGE RANGE TO CHOOSE FROM

COVER-PLAN S-T-R-E-T-C-H COVERS 100% NYLON

POST THIS COUPON NOW FOR FREE PACK OF OVER 30 FABULOUS COLOURS AND PATTERNS

Uncrushable, drip-dry, hardwearing, perfect fit guaranteed. These magnificent NYLON S-T-R-E-T-C-H COVERS will stretch and fit to every curve, and are the best value you'll see. Make your favourite suite look like new again for only 7½ gns. or on EASY CREDIT TERMS. Colours: Red/Black, Green/Black, Grey/Black, Gold/Black, Blue/Black, etc.

ALL COVERS SOLD SEPARATELY

CUSHION COVERS from 13/6 P.&P. 2/0 FIRESIDE CHAIRS from 33/6 P.&P. 3/0 ARMCHAIRS from 51/6 P.&P. 3/6 SETTEES (2 seater) from 70/6 P.&P. 5/6

Rush me now your FREE pack of over 30 fabulous colours and patterns.

Name .....

Address .....

CALLERS! Welcome at all Headquarter & General stores and at Andre de Brett Ltd., Brett House, Park Pde, Harlesden, NW10.

GENUINE COVER-PLAN is only available from COVER-PLAN by HEADQUARTER and GENERAL SUPPLIES LTD. (Dept. PH1), 196/200 Coldharbour Lane, London, S.E.5.

You won't believe it till you try it

Hadfields introduce Acrylic Gloss, a slightly unbelievable paint.

The finish is silky. But hard and scrubbable. And you clean your brush under the tap. No turps. Just water.

So although the finish is hard, the rest is easy. Let us explain.

Conventional gloss paints have an oil base. Which makes them smell. And hard to apply. And messy to clean up.

Hadfields Acrylic Gloss doesn't have an oil base. It has an acrylic base. So it doesn't have any of the nasty habits of ordinary gloss paint.

For instance, it goes on twice as fast and dries twice as fast. (We've got test figures to prove it.)

It has a light, pleasant smell, instead of a painty smell. (When you take the oil out of paint, you also remove the smell.)

It won't fade, or go yellow. Ever.

It hasn't got a trace of lead in it, so it's completely safe for children.

And because it contains no oil, you won't need lashings of turps and patience to clean your brush. Just wash it under the tap.

When you've finished, take a look at the finish. It doesn't dazzle, like ordinary gloss. It has a subtle, silky sheen. Much more elegant.

You can use Hadfields Acrylic Gloss on all interior surfaces. Woodwork. Plaster. Metal. And it's specially good for bathroom and kitchen walls.

Because if it gets dirty, you can scrub it. That's how hard it dries.

Where can you get it?
Well, most of the shops that sell Hadfields Acrylic Gloss at the moment are in London and the South East (that is, the London and Southern TV areas).

If you live outside these areas, don't despair. Some major towns have Acrylic Gloss stockists. And more are on the way.

But if you have trouble finding Acrylic Gloss, the thing to do is send us the coupon. We'll send you our free colour leaflet, and the name of your nearest stockist.

Please send me your free leaflet and the name and address of my nearest Acrylic Gloss stockist.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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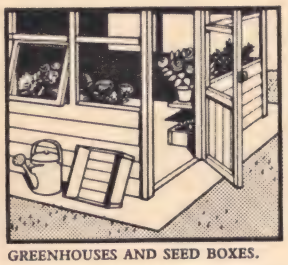
.....P.H.2

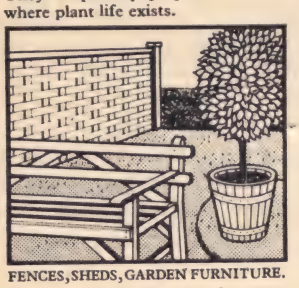
Send to: Hadfields (Merton) Ltd., Western Road, Mitcham, Surrey.

Hadfields Acrylic Gloss

Someone should have told him:



GREENHOUSES AND SEED BOXES.
Use Cuprinol Red Cedar to protect the wood of your glasshouses, and Cuprinol Green for your seedboxes. They're specially prepared for use where plant life exists.



FENCES, SHEDS, GARDEN FURNITURE.
There's a Cuprinol grade for every job - Clear, Green, Red Cedar and Exterior Brown. Ask your local stockist for details, or contact us direct.

CUPRINOL PREVENTS ROT

Cuprinol repels attacks by mould, woodworm, and fungus - at a fraction of the cost of repairing the damage they can do. In fact, Cuprinol will keep all the wood in and around your house and garden as sound as it was when new. The powerful organo metallic salts penetrate so deeply they never wash out. See the Cuprinol range. At ironmongers and builders' merchants.

CUPRINOL
protects wood for good!

For free local advice, write or call: The Cuprinol Preservation Centre, Terminal House, Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1. Tel: 01-730 9966.

Witney Value-for-money

OBTAINABLE DIRECT ONLY FROM
THE WITNEY BLANKET CO. LTD. BUTTERCROSS WORKS, WITNEY

Witney 'SILVER CLOUD' DIVAN

Complete with '5 STAR FOAM' MATTRESS
Full Length 6′ 3″ Guaranteed 5 years

A magnificent Divan, fully upholstered and superbly sprung. Complete with '5 Star Foam' Mattress with all its virtues, both mattress and divan base are covered in Rose and Silver Damask. Standard widths and full length 6′ 3″ to assure you of plenty of sleeping room, support and luxurious comfort.

2′ 6″ wide **£10.5.0**

3′ 0″	3′ 6″	4′ 0″	4′ 6″
£12.2.6	£15.3.6	£18.12.6	£19.5.0

Headboard extra in Light Oak, Dark Oak or Peach Mahogany Veneer.
Width 2′ 6″ **37/6** | 3′ 0″ **39/6** | 3′ 6″ **47/6** | 4′ 0″ **59/6** | 4′ 6″ **62/6**

'Clayrite Slipper' Castors, Single sizes 16/6 extra, Double 24/9.

EIDERDOWN RE-COVER SERVICE

Post us that old eiderdown today. We guarantee to use your own filling, add extra where necessary without charge and re-cover from your choice of many exciting patterns. Individual attention guaranteed.

Write today for full pattern brochure

FREE HOME BARGAIN BOOK

A Fully ILLUSTRATED book packed with value-for-money bargains for the home . . . Divans, Mattresses, Quilts, Blankets, Sheets, Bedspreads, Pillows, Curtains, Towels, Travel Rugs, Furniture, Chairs, Studio Couches, Baby Bedding, Carpets, etc.

For your FREE COPY send Coupon NOW!

STRETCH FIT 100% NYLON SLIP-OVER COVERS

Guaranteed Non-Ladder Fabrics in 100% Double-Knit Nylon

Witney ready-made slip-over covers will make your suite look new. There are no other fabrics quite like these for slip-over covers. They fit most styles of armchairs, settees and fireside chairs beautifully because they have such fabulous stretch, are fantastically hard-wearing and retain their stretch for years! Attractive plain or floral or printed patterns, fast dyed. Easy Terms are available, if required.

Send coupon for free pattern folders and prices today!

Curtains

MADE-TO-MEASURE

Summer days . . . prepare for them with beautiful new curtains. Witney offer an unsurpassed curtain making service and such a wide variety of patterns—designs, colourings and materials—that you're sure to find just what you need. Materials are tested for washing or cleaning and are available by the yard if required. Your order will be given individual attention. There are no extras to pay.

Send for wide selection of patterns (we pay carriage to you and on return)

Witney VELVETS

MADE-TO-MEASURE

Unrivalled for their beauty and draping. Not only beautiful but serviceable and long-wearing too. Rich, luxurious, draughtproof velvets with deep, closely woven and extra thick pile. In a wide range of the latest and most attractive shades.

Send coupon for wonderful selection of patterns

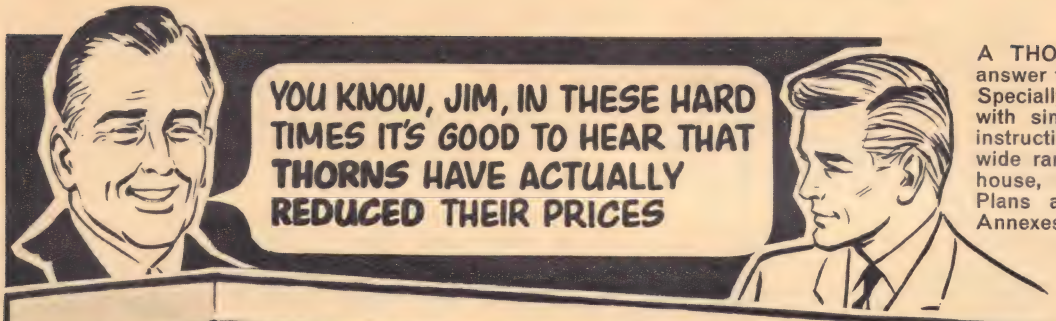
POST COUPON TODAY

THE WITNEY BLANKET CO. LTD.
Dept. P.H. 39, BUTTERCROSS WORKS, WITNEY, OXON.

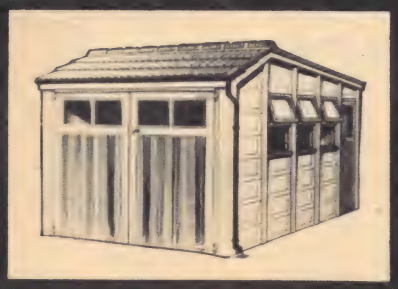
Please send FREE & WITHOUT OBLIGATION:
HOME BARGAIN BOOK
RE-COVER PATTERNS
SLIP-OVER COVER PATTERNS
VELVET PATTERNS
CURTAIN PATTERNS

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
.....

(Cross out item(s) not required) *(3d. stamp if envelope unsealed)*



A THORNS HOME ANNEXE is the perfect answer for householders who need extra room. Specially made for do-it-yourself enthusiasts, with simple-to-follow foundation and erection instructions supplied, they're available in a wide range of sizes and designs to suit your house, and your pocket, to perfection. Free Plans are supplied, and all Thorns Home Annexes comply with the building regulations. FROM £62.5s.



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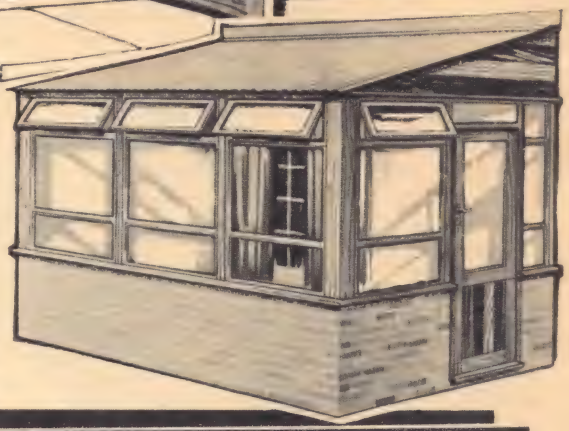

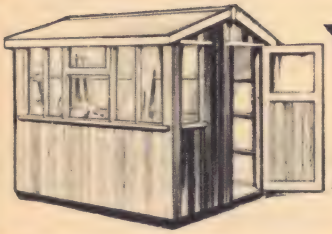

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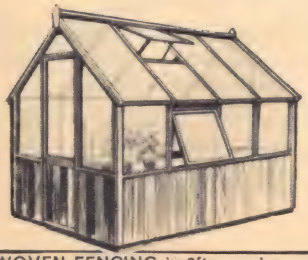

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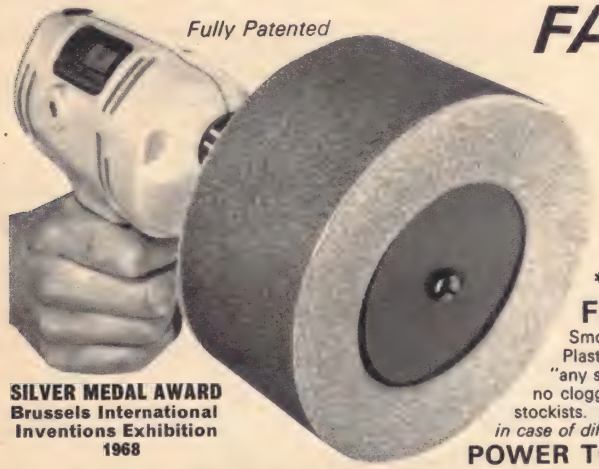

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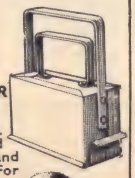

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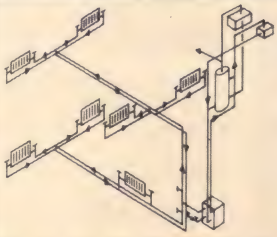

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36"	13/– yd.	9'×10' 6"	6 16 6	27/6	19/1	7 2 0
		12'×9'	7 16 0	31/3	21/10	8 2 3
9'	39/– yd.	12'×10' 6"	9 2 0	36/4	25/6	9 9 4
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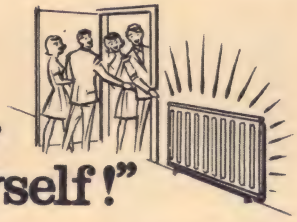

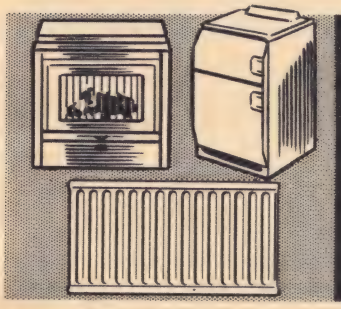

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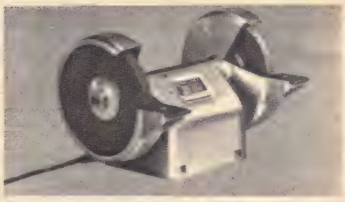

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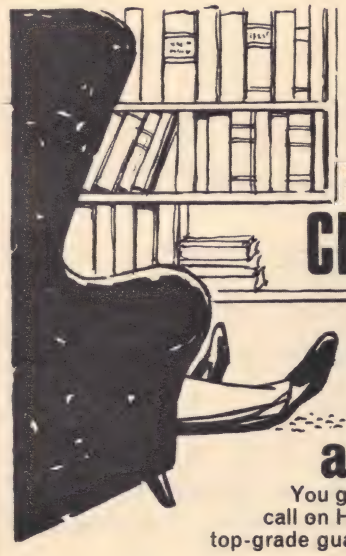

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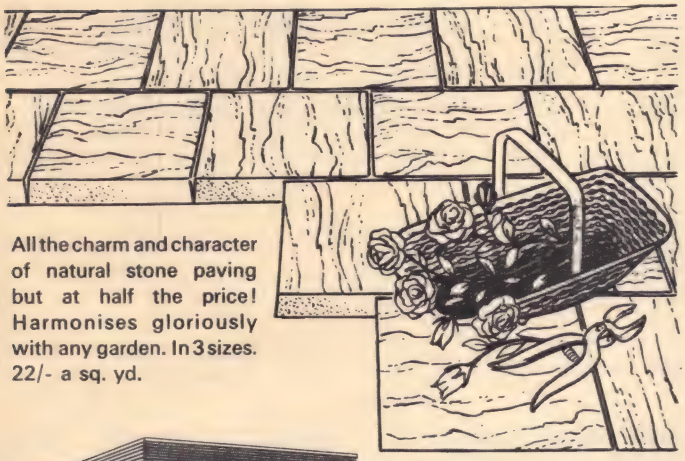

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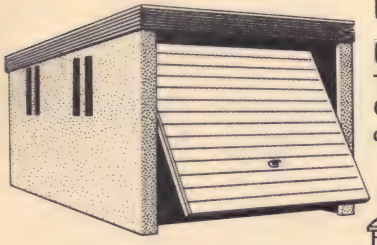

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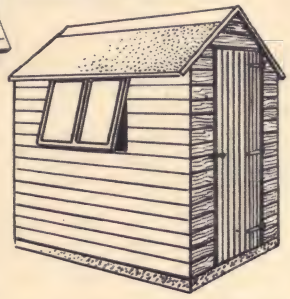

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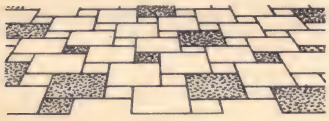

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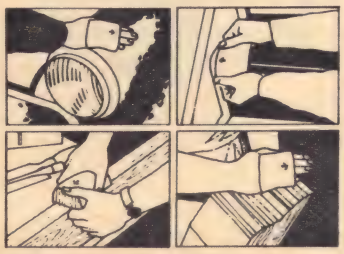

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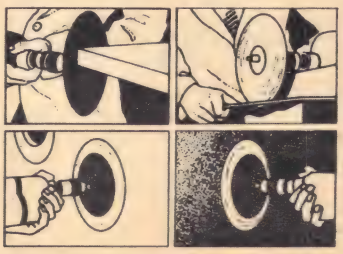

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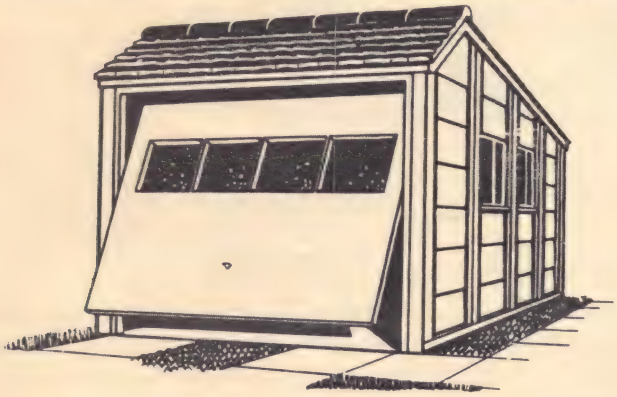

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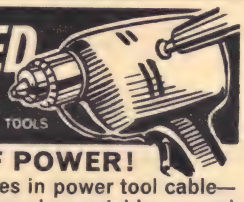

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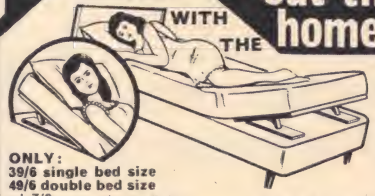

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ONLY:
39/6 single bed size
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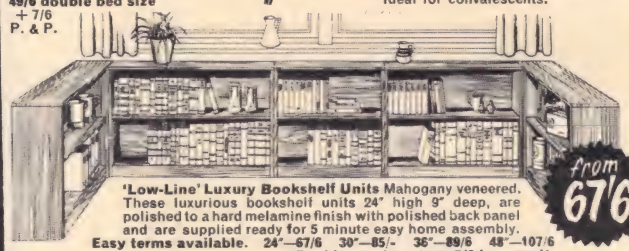

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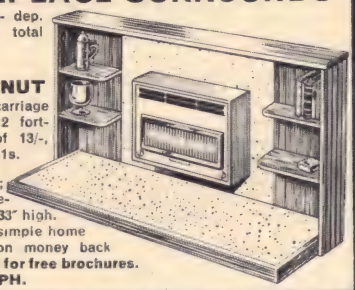

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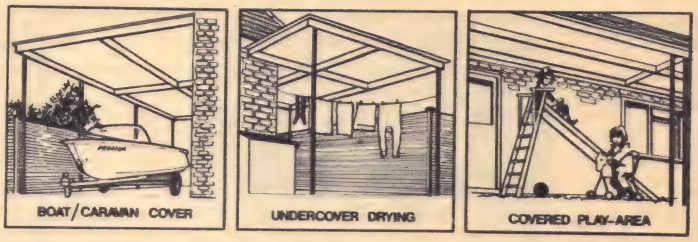

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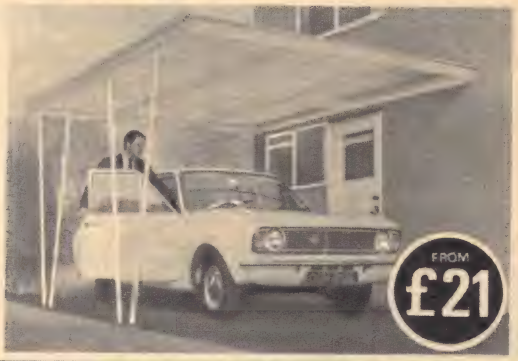

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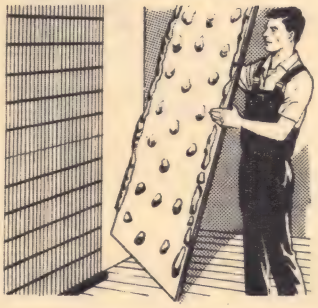

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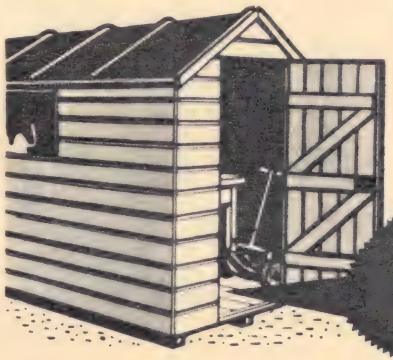

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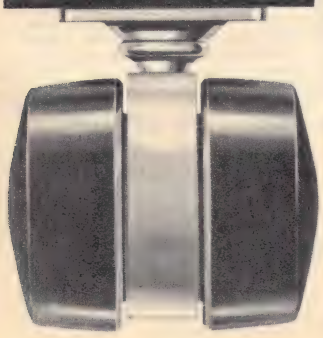

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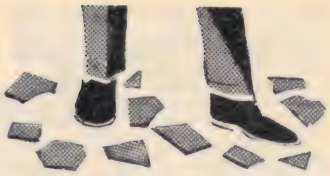

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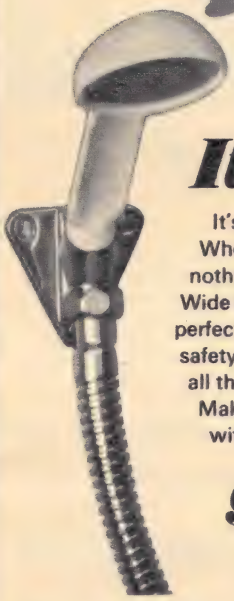

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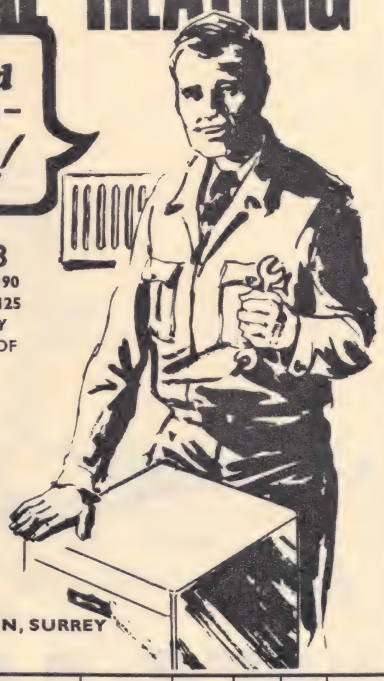

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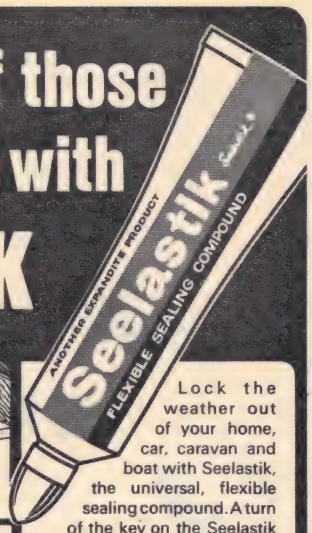

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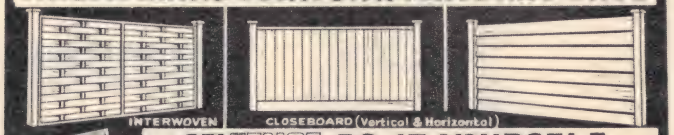

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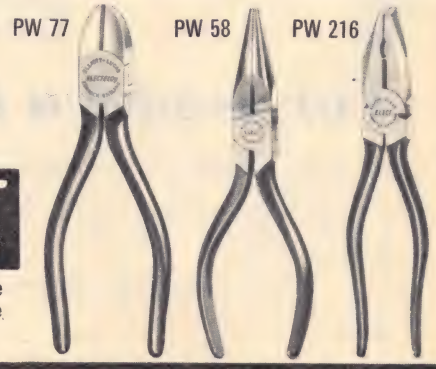

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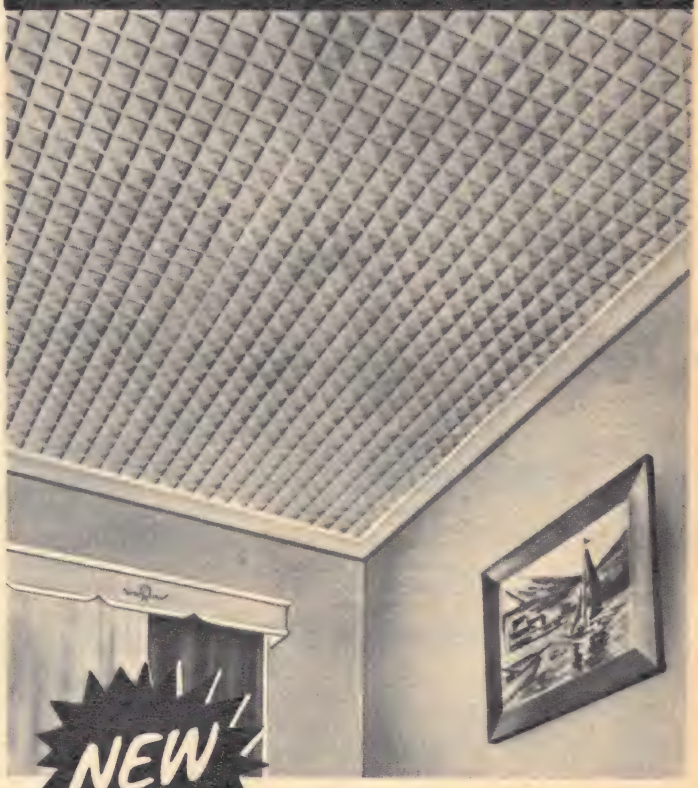

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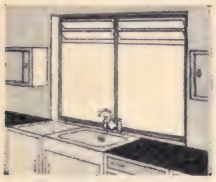
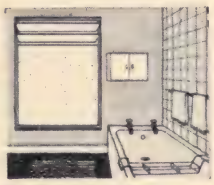


KITCHEN: Slimlite lets out the steam and cooking smells



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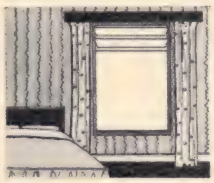

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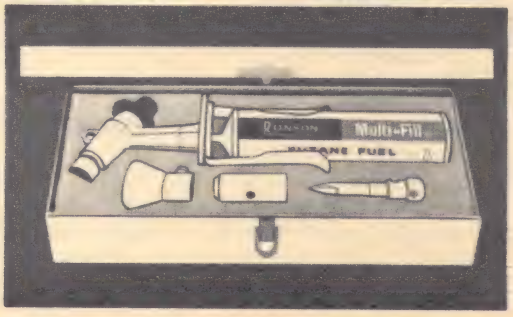

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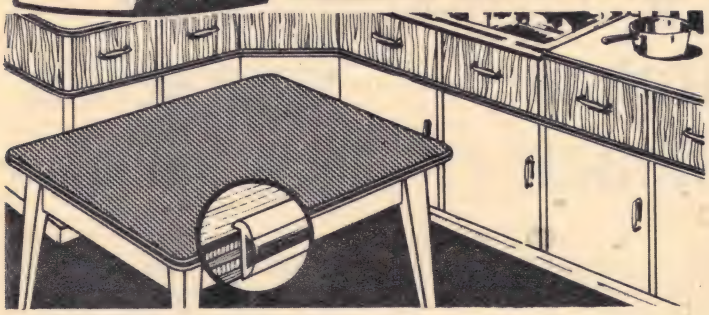

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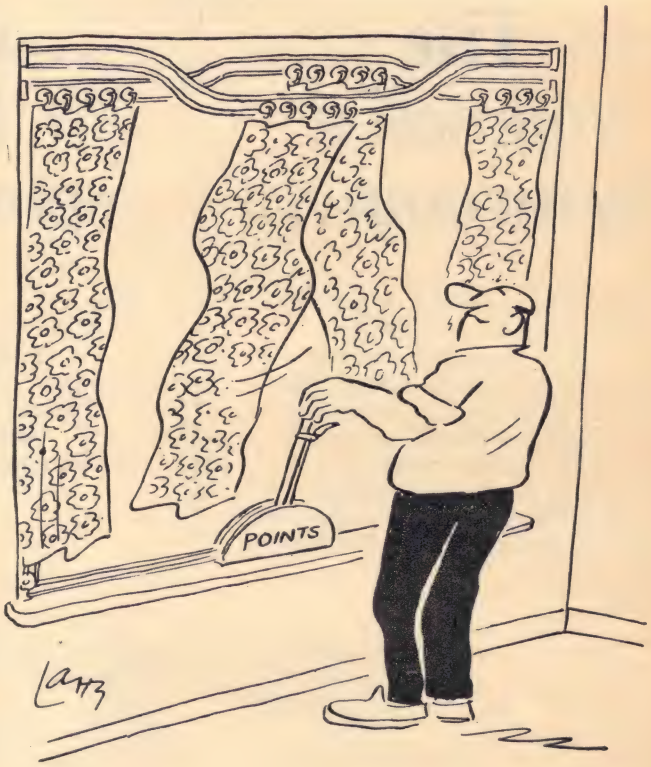

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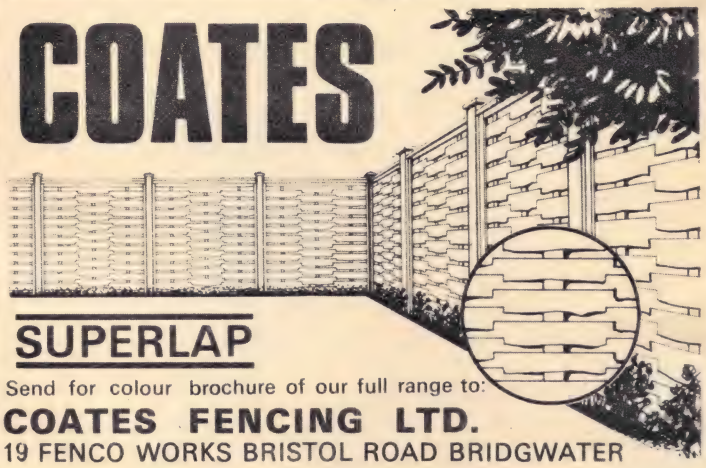

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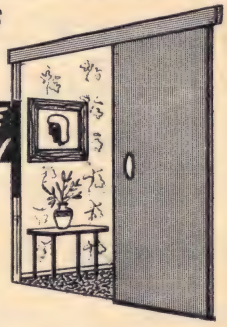

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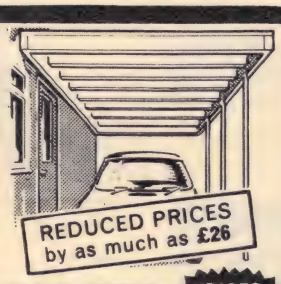

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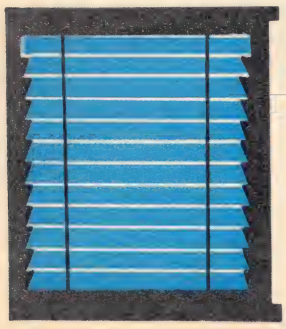

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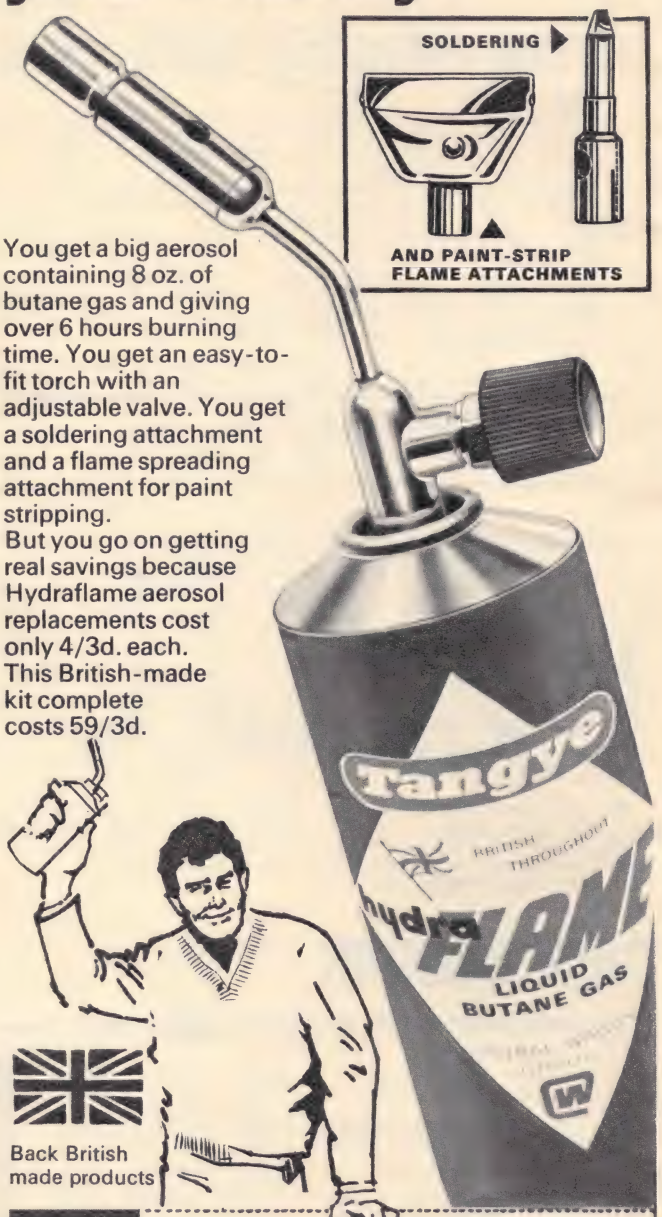

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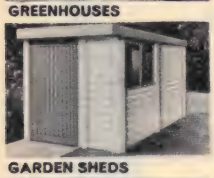

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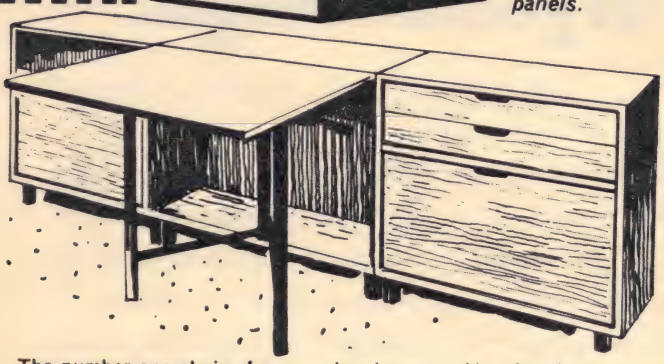

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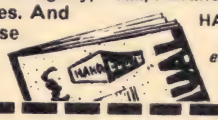

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PRACTICAL HOUSEHOLDER

VOLUME 13 No 149 JUNE 1968

CONTENTS

OUTDOOR LIVING

538 5 steps to a lovely garden
542 Water garden and fishpond
545 Fencing ideas for you to follow
546 Garden paths and steps
549 Making a concrete garden seat

550 Looking around
552 Another pair of hands
554 Cutting paving slabs
556 Bird sanctuary
558 Right in front (part 2)
560 Don't move—build on (part 3)
562 Place in the sun
565 Dry lining of walls and ceilings
568 Make a splash with a sun room
581 Be an expert at soldering
585 Woodworking simplified (part 5)
593 Legal notes
594 Space-saving hall unit
598 Letters to the Editor
600 Passing it on
605 At your service

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NEXT MONTH *July issue*

INSTALLING A MODERN WINDOW

WRITE-OFF FORM?

There are few more difficult things in life than seeing the other man's point of view! It's not a bad thing to try it sometimes and we ourselves have been endeavouring to do just that in connection with the three forms offered by the Consumer Council for use by householders who intend to have repairs or redecorating work carried out. How would a local builder look at them?

Take a job costing £150. By the time he's paid not only labour, materials, transport and overheads, acted as unpaid agent for the Inland Revenue and Ministry of Social Security and allowed for profits tax and his own income tax, etc., and etc., the builder concerned would be lucky, we dare say, if he genuinely finishes up £15 better off.

How far can you expect a man to stick his neck out in order to make £15? Or even £30? Ought he to be willing, as the Consumer Council suggests, to pay your hotel bill if he doesn't finish the job on time and you have to find accommodation elsewhere? We suspect he would double the time and/or double the price if you insisted on it. Even this, though, is not the major pitfall that lies in wait for the unwary homeowner. The "Request for Quotation" form contains a number of inviting blank spaces on which you the householder itemise the work you require to be done.

Unfortunately, the law is no more sympathetic towards the man who sets out to be his own architect than to the man who tries to act as his own solicitor. If you tell a builder exactly what he is to do you have given him the perfect alibi if things go wrong. He has done what he was told! The forms could be filled in correctly, on the other hand they could be completed in such a way as to leave the home-owner worse off than without them. In fact, if you're not a knowledgable do-it-yourselfer, your best course would probably be to ask the builder in for a cup of tea and fill in the forms under his direction. Which is not very far from saying that if you've got a builder you can trust to that extent, why bother?

We're not trying to minimise the problems that face the customer. But it's wise to try to think how much it is reasonable to ask. Take the quotation or estimate, for example. This requires that someone from the firm, and an experienced man at that, must "attend" (as the estimator calls it) take your instructions and measure up. Then he goes back to his office and applies his experience to calculating time, materials and overheads. It's so easy to go badly wrong that many small builders won't do it. Instead, they'll tell you frankly you must take them on trust and they'll charge you what the job costs plus their profit. Naturally, this can lead to some nasty shocks when the bill comes in. And equally naturally it is the desire to help the householder avoid these nasty surprises that has led the Consumer Council to prepare these forms. Now we're back to where we started! So what conclusion can we offer? First, that a job of work conscientiously carried out can never be cheap and if you try to drive too hard a bargain you may wish you hadn't. How about doing it yourself? Glad you reminded us about that. If you own your home and value it for the important asset it is, you'll be wise to give a bit of time to the subject. You need to take as much interest in it as a stamp collector does in his stamps, or a camera fan does in his photography, or a car enthusiast does in his car. And, once you've reached the stage of knowing enough to tell the builder in any detail what you want him to do you're pretty well at the point of being able to do it yourself and save trouble!

5 STEPS TO A LOVELY GARDEN

PART 1

BASIC GARDEN BUILDING

STEP 1

DRAINAGE

MANY otherwise good gardens and homes are ruined through having poor drainage. It is vital to make sure that water can get away easily or it may accumulate, not only in the soil but under the house in the foundations. This trouble is especially a problem in areas of heavy or clay soil but it may also be found in light soil where the surrounding ground is flat and the water-table high.

Perpetual damp ruins timber, soaks up into walls and makes it difficult for most garden plants to succeed. Plan your drainage system before tackling any other garden work.

If your land is steeply sloping, say more than one in eight, no formal drains may be required but in virtually every other case drains will be useful.

The main problem is often to decide where the surplus water is to be directed. The natural lie of the land may indicate an outlet into a neighbouring road or path, or across the adjoining garden. A co-operative plan with a neighbour may be very useful to both in getting rid of drain water, perhaps into a hedge ditch.

Most modern housing sites, though, are devoid of drain outlets and then the system will call for soakaway pits. These are in essence merely deep holes into which the drain pipes are directed, and from which the accumulating water has time to gradually seep away. It is vital for their proper working that these pits go deep enough to reach a porous subsoil. In gardens on clay beds this means that the depth must be great enough to penetrate the clay. Rain water then passes through the pit into the soil beneath. Pits dug too shallowly into such clay are useless for the water cannot get away.

Of course, soakaways are not left open, but are filled with rubble, broken bricks and so on, topped with a foot deep layer of finer shingle and then with topsoil. The drain pipes enter them in the top part of the gravel layer.

The position of the soakaway is at the lowest point of the garden and the drains are led to it either directly (in small plots) or by a "herringbone" system of main drains and tributaries.

A really good soakaway, which will serve for a lifetime, if it is properly made, should be about four feet square and as much deep, depending on the subsoil, clay strata and water-table.

This does mean a lot of hard digging—and, some might think, soil disposal, although this is never so much a problem as it appears before the work is done.

Many rural, if not most, and quite a large number of urban and suburban properties, have their roof drainage run, via a gulley, to land drains and soakaways. Sometimes semi-detached properties share a soakaway laid by the builder.

It is something of a temptation to run land drainage to this type of existing soakaway—but it is not wise to do so. The added burden of water might overcome the capacity of the soakaway and the drainage problem would be as bad as before.

1 After digging the soakaway the trenches are taken out. At their shallowest they must be below the level of cultivation, at least, and for best results with plants should be below the average rooting level of the species grown. Eighteen inches is the ideal minimum for most garden work. Sometimes, though, giving the trench bottom its slope of at least 1 in 150 will result in very deep trenches at the soakaway end. However deep they may be, the trenches must slope perfectly evenly

STEP 2

CULTIVATION

BEFORE starting to dig your land, make a detailed plan of your garden. This may save days of labour. Different plants call for different depths and methods of cultivation. Hedges, for example, must be *deeply* dug, preferably by hand, but on reasonably drained soil the area for lawn need only be dug 6in. deep or so. In fact, if your new garden is part of an old farm meadow, as many are these days, then you may well not need to dig it at all, for good lawns can be made from this sort of old grassland. We will give details about this in the section on lawn making.

If, though, your land is plain soil, probably more or less full of weeds, brickbats, old boots and so on, then the areas should be marked out, perhaps with pegged lines.

If a hedge is needed, mark this out 4ft. wide. Beds for roses, shrubs or perennial plants all need deep digging so mark them out too. Small annual flower beds do not need such deep work and, of course, the run of paths, terraces, drives, garage sites, etc., needs no digging at all.

By the time this is done the area of deep digging will be much reduced.

SOIL TESTING

You can now buy kits of chemicals that will tell you roughly what fertilisers are needed by your land. Some simple kits only tell whether lime is needed, which is very useful in new gardens. Others give much fuller information and indicate shortages of phosphates, nitrogen and potash.

Using these kits is very simple and calls for no chemical knowledge at all. A small quantity of the soil is placed in a test-tube and a certain liquid poured over it. The liquid will then change in colour. The resulting colour is compared with a printed chart that will tell the amount of the particular fertiliser that is needed.

STEP 3 LAWN MAKING

NEW gardens made on old grassland can often have lawns in a very short time without any cost at all, simply by mowing and treating the grass already there.

The vast bulk of all the expensive lawn turves that are sold in Britain are merely such meadow, kept mown short for a few months and sprayed to remove the weeds. The tool to use for this job is a rotary type grasscutter which will tackle even tall grass.

7 Hand digging is something of an art but if properly done need not be too tiring. Start by taking out a trench the depth of the spade across one end of the bed. Set the soil aside.

8 Fork over the bottom of this trench to give a 'double-digging' effect, ideal for roses, shrubs and trees, or for vegetables. If farm manure is available this should be spread over the trench bottom before forking. Alternatively use bone meal or a general mixed fertiliser.

9 Dig back now into the soil, throwing this over the forked area. Do not take large lumps at first. It may take several spadefuls to dig back a foot wide trench.

10 Turn the soil well back over the first trench, so exposing another trench. Clear the bottom of this with the spade. Finally fork the bottom of the second trench and continue to the end of the plot, where the soil removed from the *first* trench is used to fill up the *last*.

11 Rotovating is a popular way of getting the initial digging done, either by buying or hiring a machine. Even quite small ones can dig fairly deeply, especially in light or medium soil but *not* in one pass. Let the machine chew itself down a couple of inches at a time, working in lines up and down and across the plot, till the rotors are almost buried yet still turning freely. It is not possible with rotovators to cultivate as deeply as by hand, and hand work is certainly best where trees are to be planted.

12 Even very weedy areas are soon cut down by these machines. Used without any catch-box they finely shred the grass and leaves. If growth is heavy, rake off the worst of the debris and mow again. In the early stages mow frequently, twice a week if possible. Within a short time the large-leaved weeds will disappear whilst the tougher grasses will thicken swiftly. Mowing should be at about three inches height up to this stage but now the cutters can be gradually dropped to one inch.

13 Finally a spraying with one of the selective hormone weedkillers will kill off many of the weeds remaining and continual mowing with the catch-box on will encourage rapid spreading of the grass. Initially this may appear brown, coarse and tangled but new, fine growth will soon appear.

3 Flatness and even slope of trenches and pipes is made easy to check by three identical T-shaped boards such as this. They are stood upright on the pipe and if on sighting along them. their tops coincide, the drain is straight and even in slope

4 If stones are plentiful, pack the sides of the pipes firmly and lay larger ones over the top of each joint. Take care not to disturb the alignment of the pipes

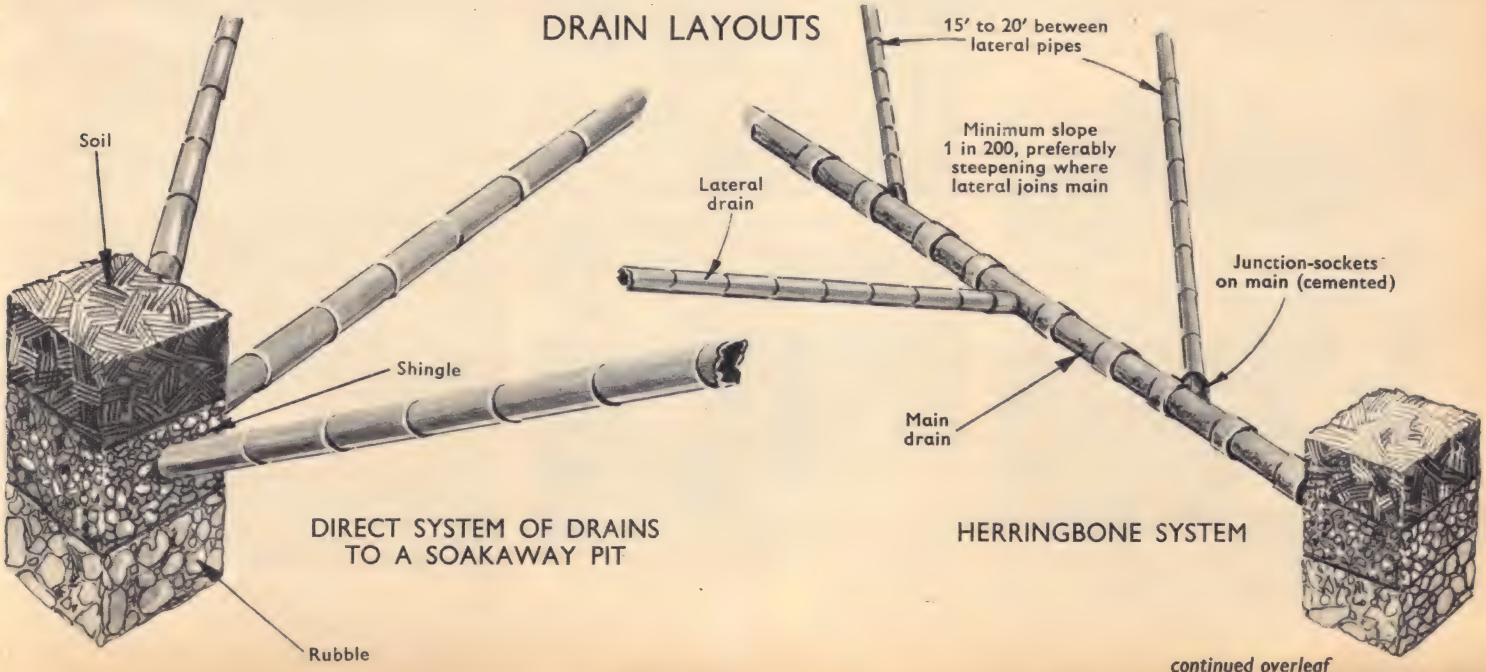
5 Shovel further stones, broken bricks or coarse gravel over the pipes and top this with finer shingle two or three inches deep. Finally replace the topsoil but do *not* ram this firm. Leave it loosely mounded to settle naturally. Heavy treading can destroy the soil structure and prevent the drain working effectively

2 Although satisfactory drains can be made by simply filling the trenches half full of rubble, or even brushwood, the labour of taking out trenches surely makes worth while the comparatively small cost of proper land tile drains, three inches in diameter. These are laid touching but *not* cemented together. Where 'herringbone' drains are laid the main pipe may be four inches diameter and be of the collared type that slots together. Only the joint pipes are cemented even with these (where trees such as poplar or willow grow or are to be planted nearby, then the pipes should be cemented or the very penetrating roots of these trees will find their way in and block the drain)

6 Very weedy ground should have the weeds skimmed off and stacked aside to rot. Buy a small bag of sulphate of ammonia and spread a handful over each six inch layer of rubbish and then lay on this an inch or two of topsoil. The compost will then be nearly as good as farmyard manure in a few months

STEP 2

DRAIN LAYOUTS

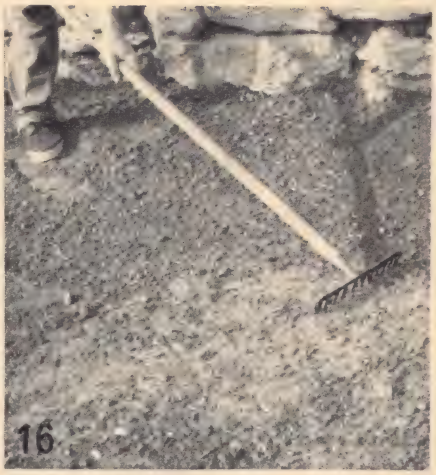


DIRECT SYSTEM OF DRAINS TO A SOAKAWAY PIT

HERRINGBONE SYSTEM

continued overleaf

OUTDOOR LIVING



14 Any lawn to be made from scratch calls for the use of the rake, to break up the dug soil finely and to level the ground. Frequent treading of the soil (in dry weather) will help to consolidate the lawn area. A flat, firm surface is vital for depressions and humps are very difficult indeed to remove later.

15 Always buy seed suited to the lawn type needed. It is pointless to buy expensive fine seeds, which do not wear well, for a lawn where children are to play, and foolish to expect a magnificent, bowling-green sward if the seed used is almost all Rye grass. Buy seed from a specialist firm who have different mixtures for all soils and situations. Mix the seed with double its volume of sand, preferably of a different colour to your soil.

16 This mixture gives more bulk and eases even distribution, for thin parts will show up by the sand colour. Sow by hand, working across the plot in both directions and save a little seed for later infilling. Finally rake the seed in lightly till the sand colour disappears. The seed should be just under the surface. Do not roll, especially on heavy soil. Start mowing when the young grass is three inches tall. Ignore germinating annual weeds. These will be killed by the first mowing and in the early stages, in warm weather, the shade of the weeds may actually benefit the grass.

17 Lawns made with turf have the great advantage that they can be used almost at once (some modern seeds also give a lawn very quickly, but still take longer than turf). Almost all turf, even if advertised as 'cultivated' is in fact farm meadow lifted by machine. Inspect turves at the *back* as much as looking at the green grass blades. A strong, fibrous mat, with little sign of cracking and taking a good deal of pulling to tear it apart, will be easiest to handle. Weed roots will often stand out clearly underneath, too, even when the leaves have been killed by weedkillers.

Weight is the great problem, often overlooked, in making a turf lawn. If this is, say, fifteen yards by ten yards, you will need 450 turves each three feet long by a foot wide. These will weigh about four and a half *tons* and all will need carrying from the roadside, unloading, lifting into place and beating down.

18 Lay boards wherever the barrow must pass or the weight will rapidly wear great ruts into the land.

19 Just before each turf is laid, lightly rake its bed. A very fine finish is not needed and small stones can be left in place provided they do not affect the levelling. Always work from the laid turves, not from the soil, and stand on a board to distribute your weight. The only real risk of failure with turf is lack of water. This is very important in spring or summer work, when turves may absorb a gallon each, daily. Dip each turf into a tub of water before laying if hot weather is likely. The best seasons for turf laying are late autumn, winter or very early spring. At other times keep the sprinkler working frequently during the three months after laying.

20 The actual layout is simple. Merely place the turves in 'brick pattern' against each other. Heavy beating is not needed. Patting with the back of a spade is adequate. Large humps or hollows must be corrected by lifting and re-laying the turves concerned.

21 Steeply sloping gardens present special problems that we cover in the next section, but one possible solution is to grass over steep banks. Turves used for this can be 'stapled' in place with eighteen-inch lengths of thick, galvanised wire bent into staple shape and pressed into the soil. In really difficult places, with steep slopes and some risk of soil sliding, these can be reinforced well by unrolling wire netting over the surface and stapling through this. The grass blades soon conceal the wire but mowing must of course be done with care and the grass left longer than usual.

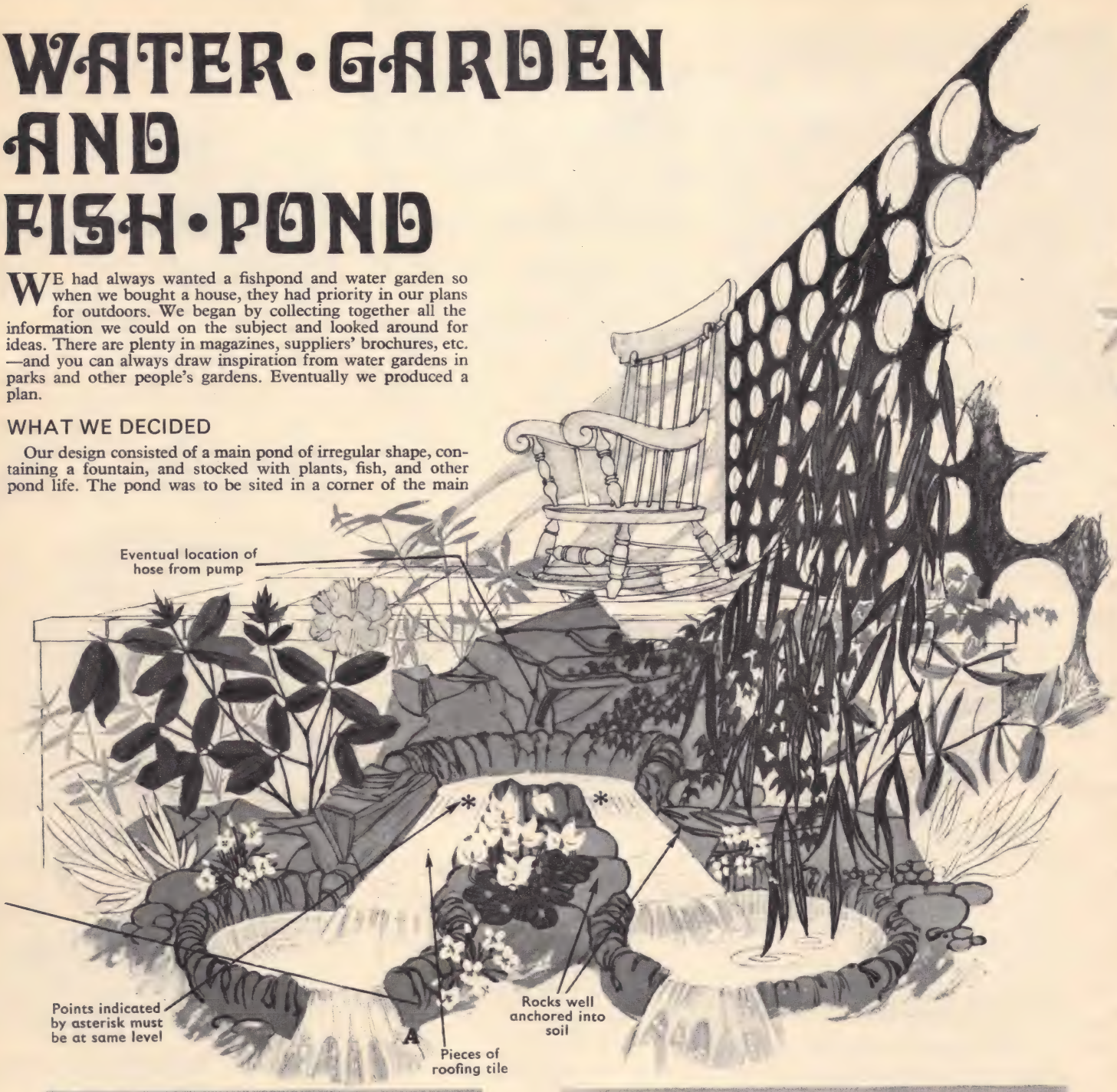
CONCLUDED NEXT MONTH

WATER·GARDEN AND FISH·POND

WE had always wanted a fishpond and water garden so when we bought a house, they had priority in our plans for outdoors. We began by collecting together all the information we could on the subject and looked around for ideas. There are plenty in magazines, suppliers' brochures, etc. —and you can always draw inspiration from water gardens in parks and other people's gardens. Eventually we produced a plan.

WHAT WE DECIDED

Our design consisted of a main pond of irregular shape, containing a fountain, and stocked with plants, fish, and other pond life. The pond was to be sited in a corner of the main



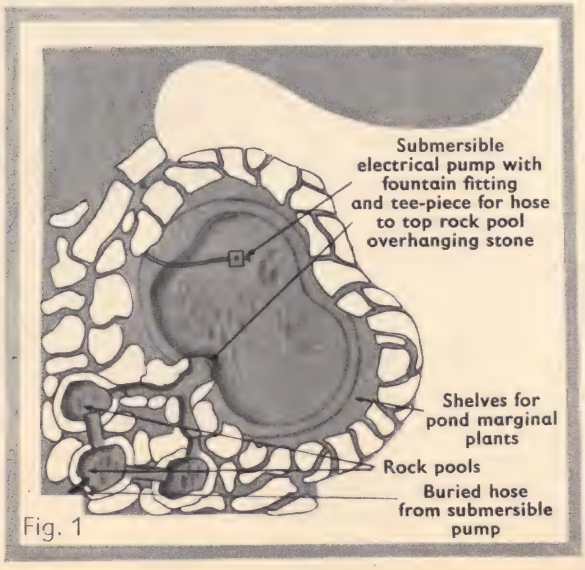


Fig. 1

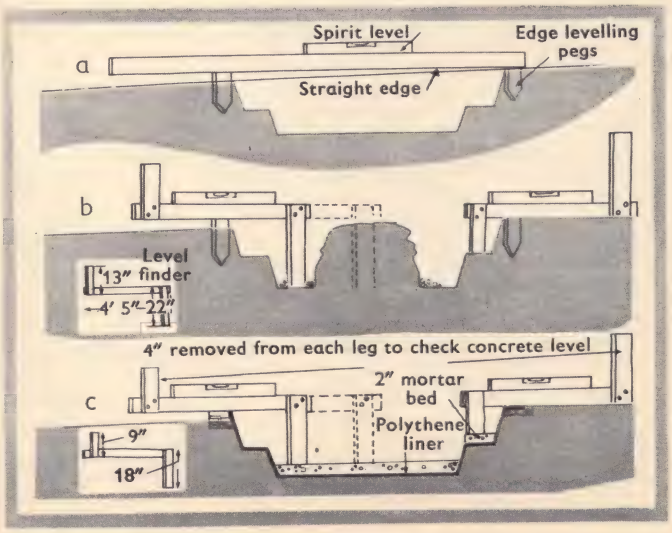
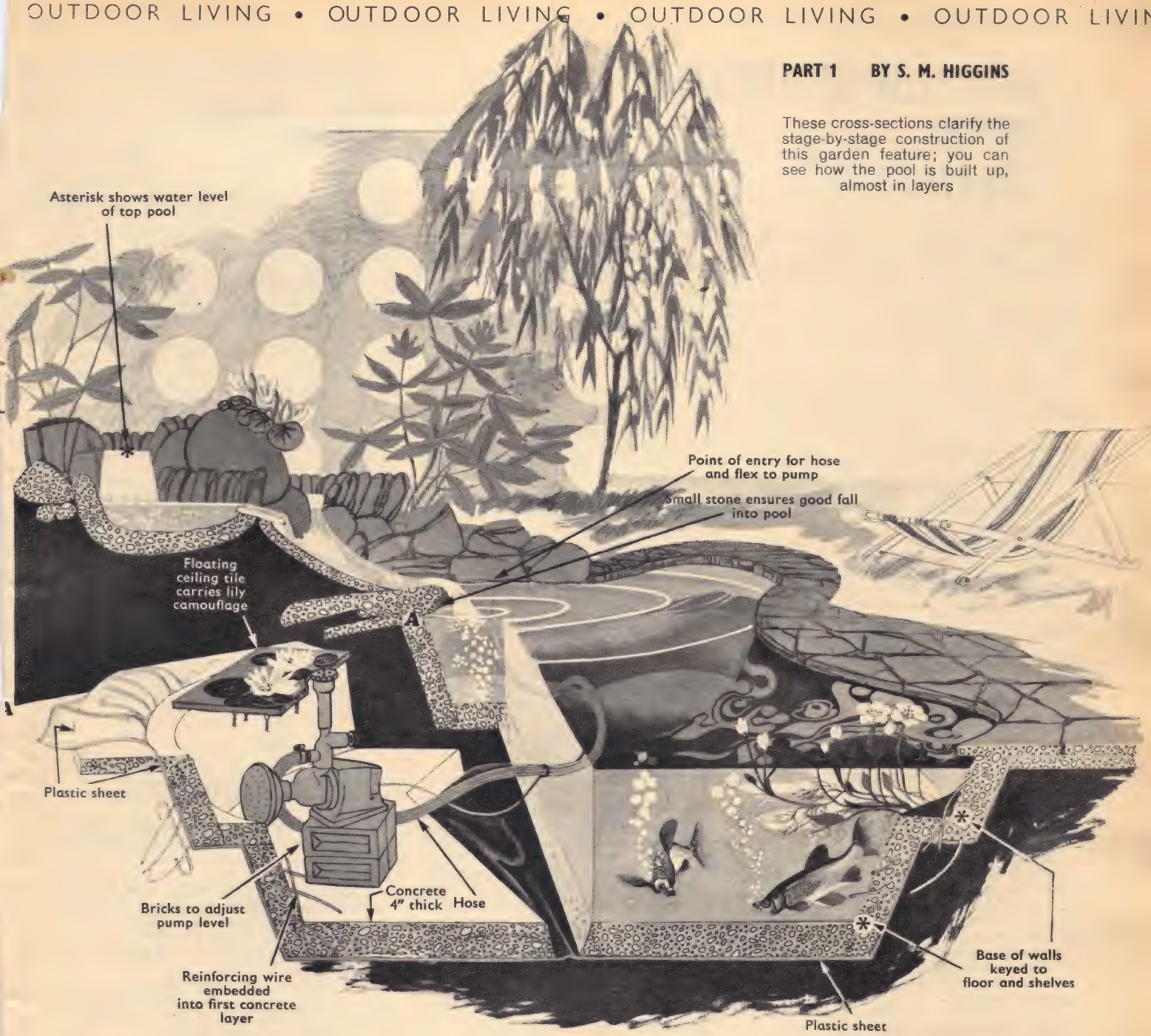


Fig. 2

PART 1 BY S. M. HIGGINS

These cross-sections clarify the stage-by-stage construction of this garden feature; you can see how the pool is built up, almost in layers



lawn below the terrace; have a water surface area of approximately 25 square feet, and bordered on the lawn side by a paved walkway. On the opposite side, would be a corner rock garden, containing, amongst the rocks and plants, a system of small pools set at different levels and linked by water-steps and channels. The submerged pump supplying the fountain would also feed water—via concealed tubing—to the top rock-pool, flowing down through the lower pools and channels, to cascade finally into the main pond again over a large overhanging stone.

Pond-side ornaments among the rocks and plants would provide finishing touches to the scene.

METHODS AVAILABLE

We found the system we envisaged could be built in several different ways; the most common of these being

1 CONCRETE

Concrete walls and floor for the main pond several inches thick (possibly reinforced). The rock-pools, etc., being less robustly formed in mortar.

The work involved in mixing the volume of concrete required to form the recommended "safe" thickness of 6in., must be a significant factor when deciding the method to be used.

However, if there is sufficient subsidence of surrounding soil or a hard enough freeze-up—or both—even the sturdiest of ponds could crack.

Also, construction in concrete involves "seasoning" problems—the removal of poisonous elements such as "free lime" from the fresh concrete prior to the introduction of delicate (and expensive) fish and plant life.

2 FIBRE-GLASS

The rock-pools, cascades—and the main pond itself—could be purchased in rigid fibre-glass units, and, after excavating the necessary holes, simply bedded-down in their respective positions.

These units are, of course, very handy and labour-saving.

We also found that although the range of main-pond sizes included the dimensions we had in mind, the smallest of the rock-pools and cascades catalogued were too large for the system we planned. Manufacturers would, no doubt, have readily made up a fibre-glass rock-pool system to our specifications.

3 PLASTIC LINERS

Again, this involves excavation of the shape and size of pond or pool desired; then lining it with tough, leak-proof PVC-coated terylene sheeting specially developed for this purpose. Such liners are offered for sale in several different colours, or with an attractive "pebble" patterned finish.

Liners are labour-saving, of course; with attractive colours and patterns to choose from. But, having two lively children, we felt pointed and sharp-edged missiles would occasionally land in the pond—with possibly disastrous results.

4 COMBINED METHODS

These include combinations of any of the three basic methods—e.g., rock-pools and cascades of fibre-glass, with a plastic liner in the main pond.

continued overleaf

WATER·GARDEN AND FISH·POND

METHOD SELECTED—AND WHY

We decided on a 'double-containment" method for the main pond—two ponds in one, you might say—consisting of 4in. thick concrete floor and walls, reinforced with thick wire; and backed-up as a second line of defence against leakage, by an inexpensive liner of ordinary heavy-gauge polythene sheeting.

We considered that by using the polythene liner we justified the reduction in thickness of concrete from the recommended "safe" thickness of 6in. to 4—thereby reducing the volume of concrete required by one third and, likewise, the labour involved —although, as confirmed "do-it-yourselfers" we readily accepted the extra work involved in concreting in order to attain the better surface textures and effects.

Also, by the use of mortar in forming the rock-pool system we would have full flexibility in choice of shape and size of pools and channels to fit into our rockery; and, with the inclusion of a suitable additive in the mortar, a choice of colour as well.

The period of "seasoning" fresh concrete can now be reduced to a matter of days by the application of a neutralising compound.

IN HARD CASH

Naturally, we always kept our ideas within the bounds of what we could afford. At an estimated cost of £25—including the cost of a pump/fountain/recirculating system—our method was the cheapest of all those considered.

SITING

When selecting the site for any type of garden pond, it is advisable to pick an area where the soil has remained undisturbed for several months at least—thus avoiding the damage caused by a pond settling or tilting in soft ground; the need for a lot of extra "punning" prior to construction, a hundred or so gallons of water, plus the weight of the concrete and rocks, add up to a formidable mass to support!

A *level* site simplifies the task, because, unless deliberately designed to be otherwise, the edges of a pond must be horizontal, i.e. parallel with the surface of the water—otherwise it will appear lop-sided.

Our house is built on a natural incline, therefore the siting of the pond on sloping ground was unavoidable. However, I doubt whether our situation is uncommon; indeed, for an informal water-garden, the natural slope of surrounding areas may well enhance its appearance.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

It's important to sketch a plan—as detailed as it is possible at this stage—of what you intend to achieve (Fig. 1).

If drawn roughly to scale, the plan will also illustrate how the finished project blends with the garden in general.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

For our pool, were as follows:

A 12ft. square sheet of heavy gauge polythene sheeting.
5 cwt. of Portland cement.
13 cu. ft. of clean sharp sand.
12 cu. ft. of coarse aggregate.
Green cement colouring (sufficient for 1 cwt. of cement), for pools, etc.
200ft. of ⅛in. mild-steel rod (wire); or 3-4 sq. yd. of chain-link fencing.
100 old building bricks or rocks for ensuring a horizontal rim for ponds built on sloping sites.
Plenty of rocks and broken slabs for the rockery and walk-way.

TOOLS

These included a "laying-on" trowel or "float" for laying the concrete and smoothing the surface; a bricklaying or pointing trowel; a large spirit level; an 8ft. "straight-edged" piece of timber; a heavy hammer and bolster chisel (for cutting bricks and slabs); a steel rule; a garden spade; a bucket or wheel-barrow for carrying concrete; a watering-can or garden-hose, and a heavy object for "punning" and compressing freshly dug soil (we used half a railway sleeper with two 6in. nails as handles).

ROCKERY FOUNDATION

We had built up an impressive heap of bricks, stones and rocks from previous jobs.

The smallest of these now formed the foundations for the corner rockery, by simply piling them into the soil. This foundation and later, the soil and rocks of the rockery proper, must be solid to keep the long-term settlement of the rockery and consequent disturbance of the rock-pools system to a minimum.

Our heap of stones included a variety of large rugged rocks and colourful lumps of sandstone and granite. These were used later in the exposed surface of the rockery.

MARKING-OUT POND

With the sketch-plan, and not forgetting to leave sufficient room for the rockery (ours rises to a height of 2ft. 6in. above the main pond, with a maximum width of 6ft.)—the shape of the main pond was marked out. We had to bear in mind that the area intended for excavation had to include the 4in. thick concrete liner circumventing the planned water area.

EXCAVATION

To ensure level excavation of the pond bottom and marginal plant shelves—especially if sited on sloping ground—we did the following:

1. At the *highest point* just outside the area to be excavated, a short, thick peg was driven into the soil until just "flush" with the surrounding surface.
2. Similar pegs were driven in at half a dozen points around the edge of the marked-out area and, using a long "straight-edge" and spirit-level we checked that the top surface of each was truly level with the "flush" peg. (Fig. 2a.)
3. A "level-finder" was made out of a 4 to 5ft. long "straight-edge" and, using it as illustrated in Fig. 2, the shape of the pond was excavated as shown in Fig. 3.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

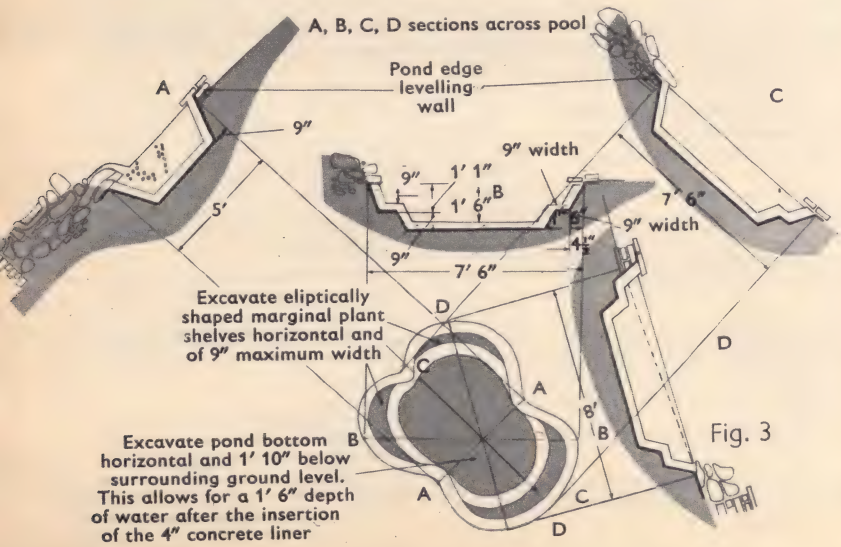


Fig. 3

FENCING IDEAS FOR YOU TO FOLLOW

A

B

FENCES rarely require more woodworking skill than the ability to measure and saw along a straight line. What is useful is a little bit of ingenuity in working out a design that suits your home and looks a little different from the house next door. Although oak is the usual material for fence posts—and a very good one, too—it doesn't take paint well. If you want a painted fence, the posts and pales will have to be one of the usual softwood building timbers, and machine planed, not just rough sawn. Of course, you can get pleasant colours in timber preservatives these days, as well as colourless and the familiar creosote brown. But the present trend is undoubtedly for white painted fences and, as you can see here, the effect is undisputably attractive.

If you want a dog-proof fence it needs to be at least 2ft. 6in. high and either fairly close-boarded, or with wire netting behind it. Wire netting soon weathers and, with a few plants such as rambler roses on the fence, becomes practically invisible. It can be the large mesh type and may enable you to make considerable savings in the amount of timber.

A Admittedly not dog-proof, but easy to build; 6in. planks tenoned into posts but could be nailed to face

B Screen in 4in. × 2in. with approx. 18in. squares; you can halve uprights and horizontals into each other or (apart from end ones) toe-nail short lengths

C Planks nailed to post faces with about 2in. between, giving increased privacy and reducing wind pressure

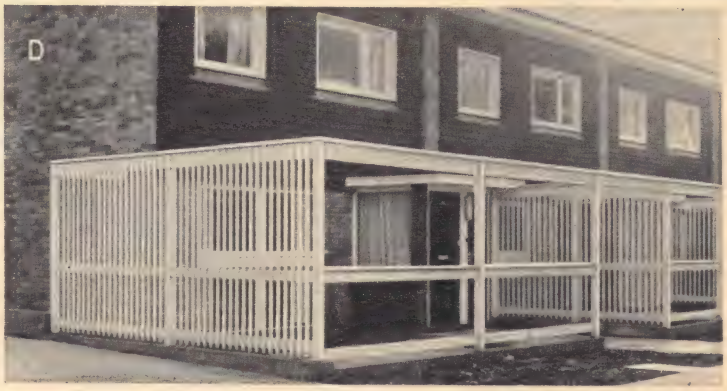
D An idea adaptable to a solid roof porch to give more privacy; perhaps the second motive here was to give a bit of relief to the otherwise bare appearance

E Not original, this 'picket' fence, but it's pleasant and stray-dog proof; curve in paling is a nice touch

F Two easy ones—just posts with planks nailed on; use of contrasting narrower plank is an improvement;

G in F posts (probably oak) are treated with preservative; slope to which post tops are cut in G helps shed water

C


D

E

G

F

GARDEN PATHS AND STEPS

Here the development rises from the informal lower step to merge pleasantly with traditional masonry

TWO factors must be known before construction of the path can be started. The first is the width. The second is the nature of the path's surroundings. If it is necessary to dig right up to the path, then a concrete edging about 3 or 4in. wide will be required on either side to prevent damage to the foundations.

Referring to Fig. 1 it will be seen that the greater part of the foundation is taken up with a layer of tightly packed stones, 4in. thick. There is generally no shortage of such stones in a garden. Should these not be available, however, "hard core" as used for road construction will suit admirably.

Ordinary solid fuel ash—not wood ash—will serve for the second layer which is only about ½in. thick. The choice of material here is by no means critical.

The "dry mix" which is mentioned in Figs. 1 and 3, consists of a weak concrete, or rather a mixture of six parts of sharp sand to one part of cement. This is used dry—that is no water is added as would normally be the case. In this condition the material forms an excellent medium in which to lay the crazy paving stones.

Where it is available, natural stone is the obvious choice for paving. Any stone which is reasonably hard wearing and which will not flake off is suitable. "Blue Pennant" stone was used for the paths in the photographs, this being locally quarried. In view of the cost of natural stone broken paving stones provide a useful alternative. These also have the decided advantage that they are all of the same thickness. Your local authority may be able to supply.

Whatever stone is finally chosen, it should be about 1½in. to 2in. thick, and have a more or less uniform cross-section.

CONSTRUCTION

A sectional diagram showing the basis of the construction is given in Fig. 1. Dig the trench to a depth of 5in., plus the thickness of the paving material to be used. Assuming this to be 2in., then a depth of 7in. will be required. The width of the trench should be equal to the width of the path plus 3in.

If concrete edging is required as described earlier, then this should now be constructed. It takes the form of a rectangular block, 3in × 5in., and is made quite simply by setting two of the 5in. boards shown in Fig. 1 3in. apart along the sides of the trench and filling the resultant cavity with concrete (5 parts sand to 1 part cement is suitable). Note that these kerbs should not extend beyond the overall limits of the path.

Should it not be necessary to use such edging, then the procedure is as follows.

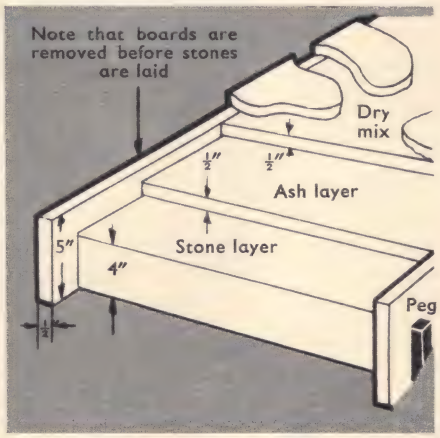
First set up the boards along the sides of the trench (Fig. 1). Then fill the space between them with a layer of small stones to a depth of 4in. The tool shown in Fig. 2 can be quickly constructed and will be found to be very useful in gauging this depth. A tip here is to place some larger stones towards the outside edges of the trench in order to further consolidate the foundation. The stones should be well rolled and packed together as closely as possible. The layer of ash is next placed on top. This must be well rolled and compacted. It may be found that this is easier to accomplish if the ash is first slightly moistened. At this point the foundations should be treated with a weedkiller of the long-acting type.

It is a good idea to leave the foundations in this condition for a few days.

The boards are now carefully removed, and weak concrete is poured into the space left by them (6 parts sand to 1 part cement). This helps to prevent loosening of the tightly packed stone foundations.

The crazy paving stones are now laid out in the positions which they will finally occupy. The path should be completely laid out in this fashion before any of the stones are properly laid. Try to keep the path as random as possible. The gaps between the stones should not be too large, 1in. is a good average, or even less if possible.

The stones are next laid one by one in the "dry mix" made as described earlier. This process is not difficult, patience is really all that is required to get the stones level and true with one another. A point to note here is that the whole path should be given a very slight camber.



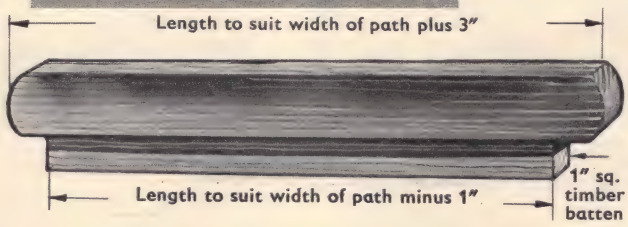
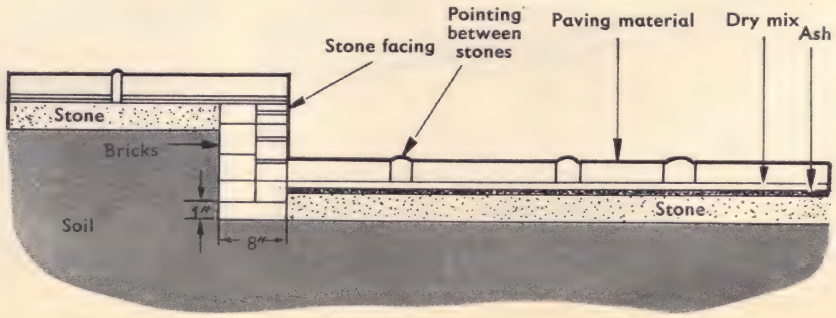


Fig. 1, top left: The construction method of paving
Fig. 2, left: The simple timber gauge used for maintaining path width
Fig. 3, below: Cross-section through paving



Shutter boards laid along one side of the path site; the line is for digging the shutter trench—use the gauge for the width

Fig. 3 gives details of the construction of a step. This is in the main self explanatory.

The path is finished off by filling the gaps between the stones with concrete (3 or 4 parts sand to 1 part cement) and pointing.

COLOURFUL PATHS

When it comes to pathways, most people's plans seem to revolve about ordinary grey concrete or artificial grey flags of a standard size, though coloured concrete flags are obtainable as well as colouring agents for the handyman who wishes to make his own. Several firms produce precast concrete flags having permanent non-slip surfaces in many different colours and sizes. This enables different kinds of patterns or bonds to be constructed as shown in Figs. 4, 5, 6. The colours will show these to good effect, especially if a joint of approximately ½in. is left between each flag and pointed with a sand cement mortar in the proportions of 4:1 to which a quantity of lamp black has been added or a black clinker mortar is used.

"SOLID BED" METHOD

When used for drives, main paths, etc., it is necessary to bed the flags solid.

The ground should first be made as smooth, compact and as level as possible. The slabs should then be laid in a mortar composed of five parts of sand and one part of cement. Ensure that the flags are level.

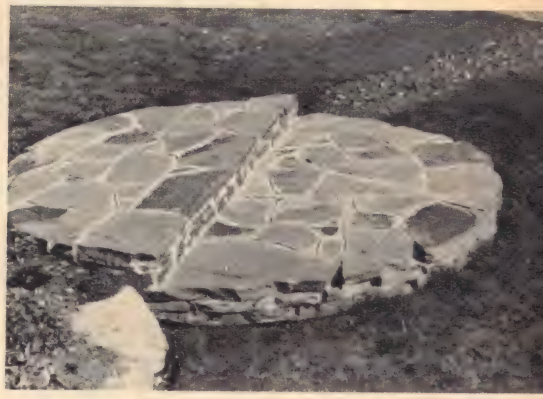
A pleasant and even appearance will be obtained by leaving regular joints of ¼in. or ½in. wide between each flag. Leave the paving to set for a minimum period of 48 hours.

To avoid any risk of the wet mortar adhering to the textured surface of the slabs, it is best to use a very "dry" mortar mix for the joints when these are "pointed" after the flags have set.

Above: Note how the random shapes key in with careful selection

Below: The corner section shows how the concrete edging supports the outer stones

Below: A feature terrace on two levels, based on the step principle

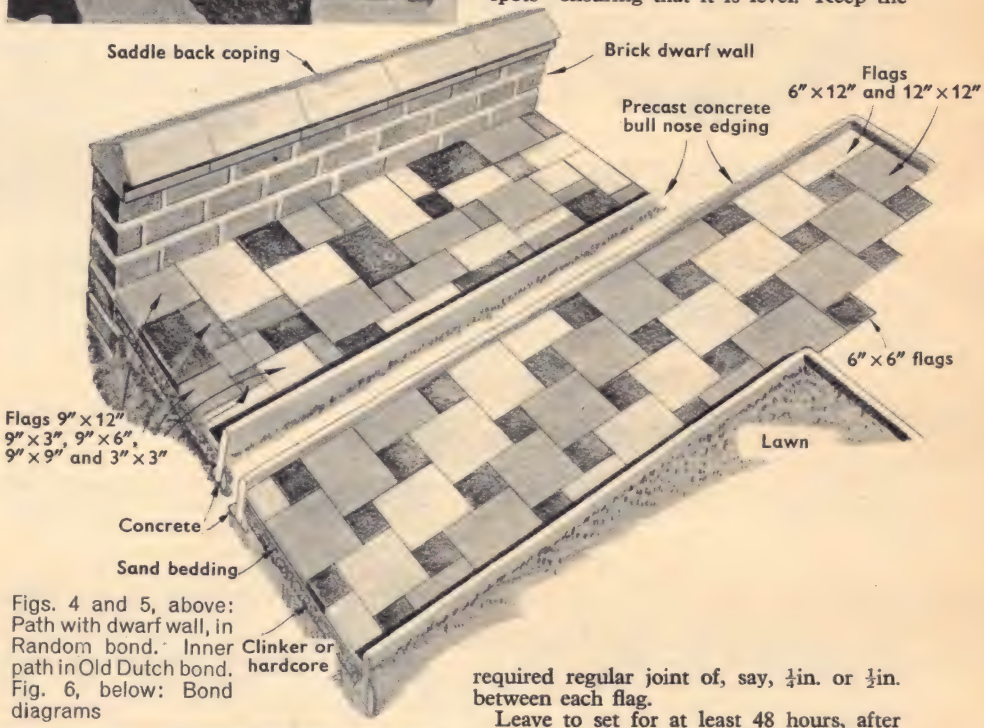


"MORTAR SPOT" METHOD

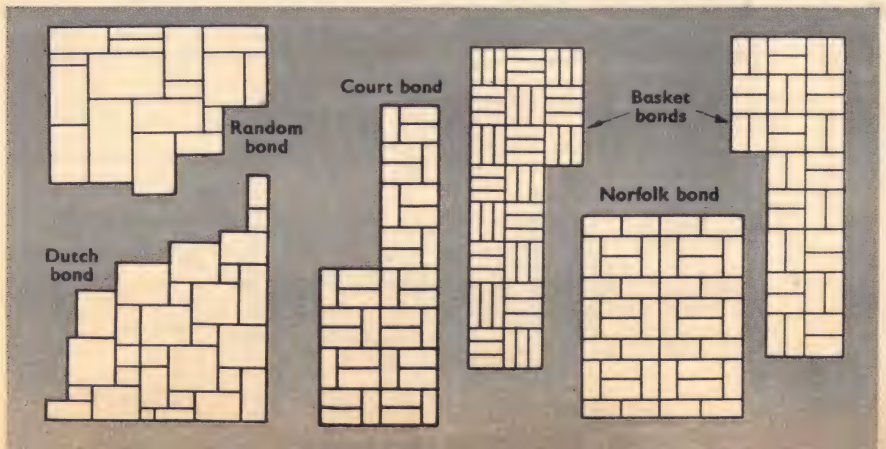
This method can prove quite satisfactory for normal foot traffic. The ground should be carefully levelled and made as compact as possible. When this is done, spread a fine bed of sand and ashes over the area. Each flag should now be bedded on from 1 to 5 evenly spaced mortar spots, depending upon the size of the flag—for example, the 1ft. × 1ft. size needs one "spot" in the middle, whereas a 2ft. × 2ft. flag should have five "spots"—one in each corner and one in the middle. The mortar mixture should be 5 parts of sand and one cement.

Carefully press each piece on its mortar "spots" ensuring that it is level. Keep the required regular joint of, say, ¼in. or ½in. between each flag.

Leave to set for at least 48 hours, after which the joints may be "pointed up" as detailed in the solid bed method.



Figs. 4 and 5, above: Path with dwarf wall, in Random bond. Inner path in Old Dutch bond. Fig. 6, below: Bond diagrams



"DRY" METHOD

This is the cheapest method of laying the slabs for garden paths but movement or settlement of the flags must be accepted. Carefully level the ground and compact as much as possible. Now spread a bed of sand, ashes or fine earth about ½in. deep over the area. The flags should then be pressed firmly into the bed one by one to the pattern desired, taking care that they are level.

When laying is complete, sifted soil or

Continued overleaf

sand may be brushed into the joints or they may be filled with "dry" mortar as detailed in the solid bed method.

A neat edging can be made by inserting half tiles (9in. × 4½in., 1ft. × 6in. or 1½ft. × 9in.) vertically in the ground along the edge of the paving. A special garden edging to match these colours 7in. high × 2in. thick in 3ft. pieces with rounded tops can be obtained. Alternatively, a very attractive dwarf wall may be made from the flags or from bricks or concrete blocks.

Flags of one standard size are used for the Court, Norfolk and Basket bonds in Fig. 6, two sizes for those in Fig. 7 and three or more sizes for those in Figs. 4 and 5 and the Dutch and Random bonds in Fig. 6.

Small flags are less inclined to crack than large ones, when home-made.

There are several ways of making one's own flags. If space is limited and amount required is small, each one can be cast separately.

Two types of wooden moulds are shown in Fig. 9. Bear in mind that only one flag can be cast at a time in each flag mould, and that it can't be stripped for at least 3 days—longer if possible. If a Random bond is contemplated several sizes will be required. Remember, too, to grease the moulds between each casting operation.

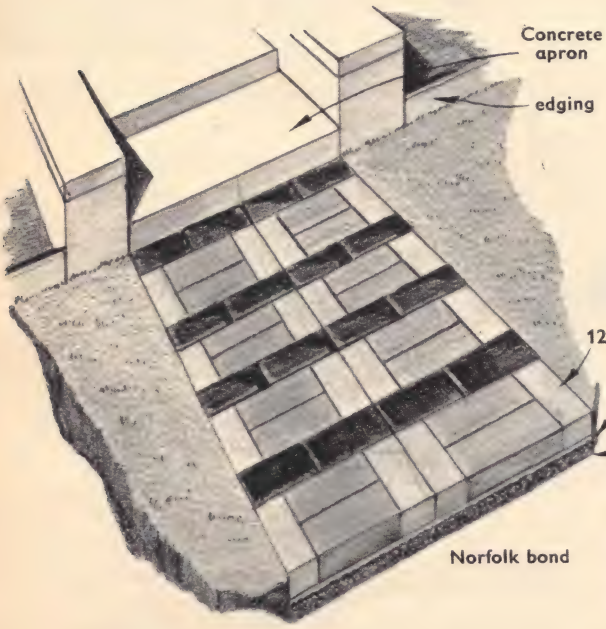
An alternative method is to select a good firm and level base, such as a paved area, erect some type of formwork as shown in Fig. 11 and secure firmly in place.

Lay a sheet of waterproof paper between the formwork, or a fine layer of sand; fill moulds with a firm mix of fine concrete in the proportion of 4 to $\frac{3}{16}$in. chippings and dust, 2 of sand and 1 of cement; or 3½ of ¼in. chippings and dust, 1½ of sand and 1 cement, tamp down firmly and screed off.

After the concrete has been allowed to set slightly, say 2 hours after placing, mark out in flag sizes, cutting the marks in with the point of a trowel to ⅔rds the depth of concrete. Allow to set completely for say 3 days, lift with a spade, breaking off at the joints and stack to cure for 7 days (Fig. 10).

The disadvantages of this method are that the flags are not as strong as pressed ones, only one colour can be produced at a time, and joints have to be rather wide, due to rough edges of flags.

For colouring, colouring liquids or powders are added to the mixing water. Where powders are concerned, the weight of powder used must not exceed 6 per cent the weight of cement used, or the strength of the flag will suffer. White cement can be bought and high alumina cement is naturally black in colour. If the joints between the flags are "pointed," a slight fall is desirable to drain water away, preferably not towards the house. Flags laid by the dry method described earlier can have rather wide sand-filled joints through which water will soak away.



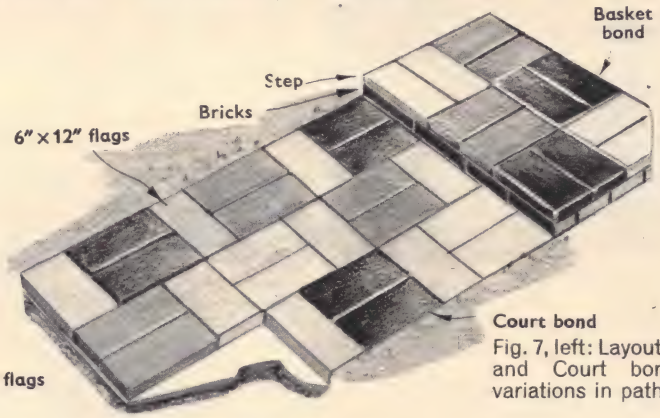
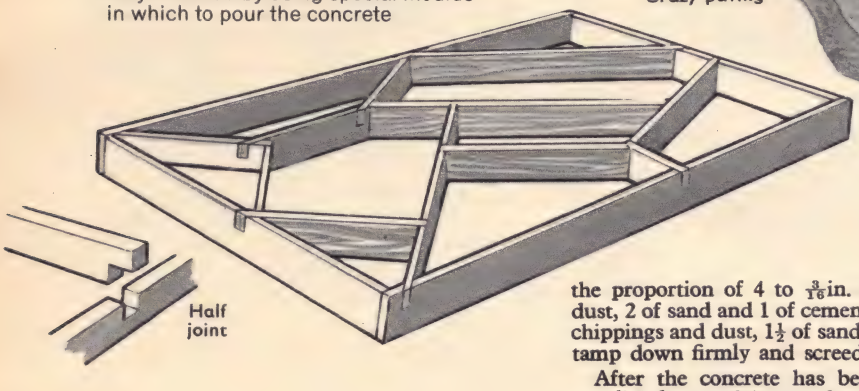
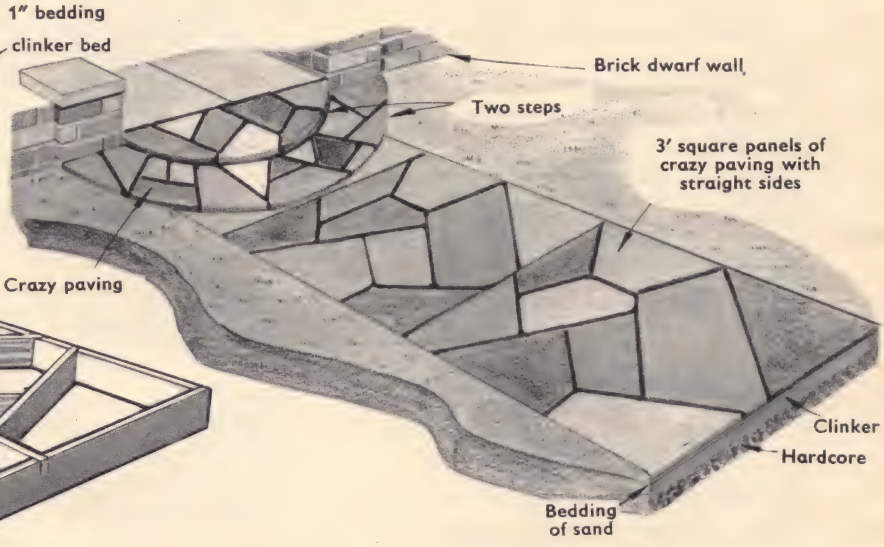


Fig. 7, left: Layouts for Norfolk and Court bonds, giving variations in paths and steps

Fig. 8, below and right: Crazy paving may be made by using special moulds in which to pour the concrete





COLOURED CRAZY PAVING

Crazy paving was dealt with earlier, but another colour to the paving is shown in Fig. 8. The mould should be so constructed that it can be pulled apart easily. Half joints have been used on the cross members with a very slack fitting to allow for expansion when the wet concrete is placed.

It will be seen that the path has been treated in panels, this is to cut down the amount of timber required, and to allow the parts to be cast in a small space.

Some form of identification is desirable, say a number at rear of flag to correspond with numbers on a rough pencilled sketch.

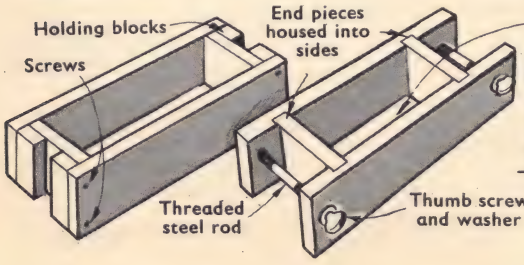


Fig. 9: Two types of mould for Flagstones

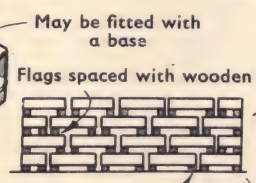


Fig. 10, above: Arrangement for drying

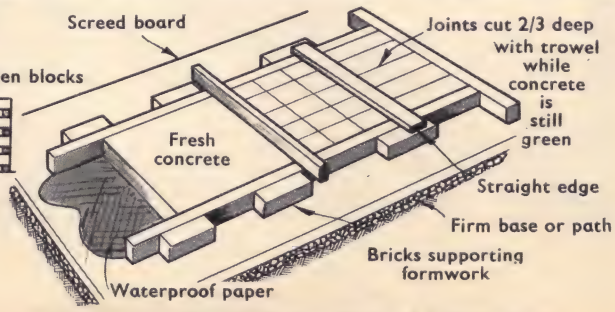


Fig. 11: Casting Flags on a flat surface

Make that old floor NEW!

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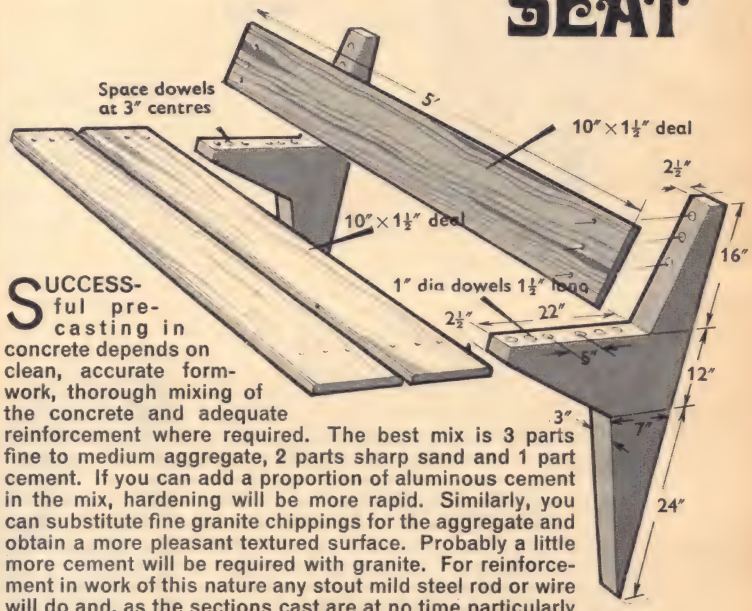
MAKING A CONCRETE GARDEN SEAT



SUCCESSful pre-casting in concrete depends on clean, accurate formwork, thorough mixing of the concrete and adequate reinforcement where required. The best mix is 3 parts fine to medium aggregate, 2 parts sharp sand and 1 part cement. If you can add a proportion of aluminous cement in the mix, hardening will be more rapid. Similarly, you can substitute fine granite chippings for the aggregate and obtain a more pleasant textured surface. Probably a little more cement will be required with granite. For reinforcement in work of this nature any stout mild steel rod or wire will do and, as the sections cast are at no time particularly thick, the rod must run almost the full length of the sections. Make only enough mix for each moulding, thoroughly mixing dry first and adding very little water—just enough to ensure that the mix is dampened to form a cohesive mass. Too much water will weaken the casting and set up shrinkage on drying out. For the formwork, use timber in good condition and stout enough to withstand the pressure of the mix. Use screws throughout for the joints—nails will give under pressure.

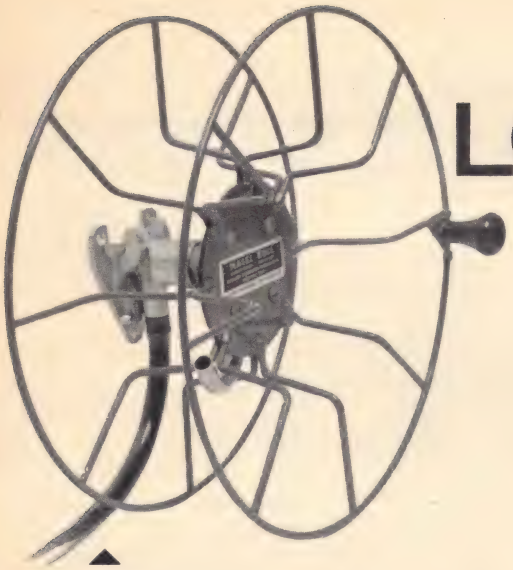
Secure the castings in the ground by tamping stones and rubble down from the front, forcing the back against the rear angle of the hole.

Above left: When mould is half full, locate reinforcing. Above right: The top is the facing surface; brush off when partly set and wipe with rag to bring out texture

Above: Remove the mould and reverse for second casting to get two outer faces of good texture

Right: Place seat across and check for level; finish seat with PU 15 varnish over a mahogany stain and fix with brass screws and cups and plugs driven into dowels holed by screws that held casting in mould

LOOKING AROUND

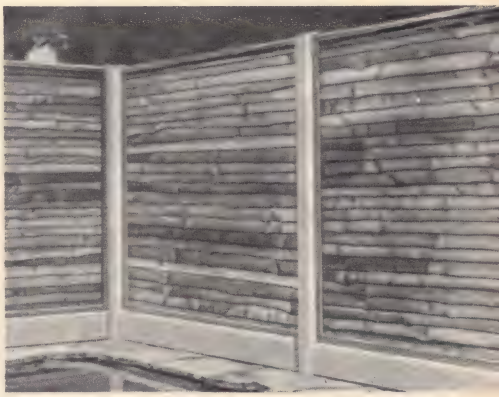


HASEL through feed hose reel enables hosing to take place as the hose is unwound. The reel clips to a special bracket which can be fixed easily to a wall or post. Water flows to the reel from the supply tap through a short supply hose and passes through a special unit incorporating a shaft seal which allows the reel to rotate freely under water pressure of 100p.s.i. Made of welded steel, the reel is assembled with four bolts and nuts. A detachable handle is incorporated for winding-in the hose and tangling and snagging are eliminated. Weather protection of the reel is provided by a strong nylon covering and all other parts are rust-proof and self-lubricating. Price, £5 17s. 6d. including mounting bracket. Haselden Engineering Products Ltd., Crayford Industrial Trading Estate, Crayford, Kent.

LANDMASTER 100 protruding head garden cultivator has the advantage of three-way drive—forward, reverse and horizontal. With a 3 h.p. 4-stroke engine, it is a rugged robust digger and is fitted with slasher blades for 18in. width of cultivation. It has easily adjustable handlebars and a hand operated clutch for easy off load starting. Price £76 10s. Accessories for this model include lawn rake, rotary grass cutter, hoe blades, pick tines, spin weeder (shown) and hedge trimmer. Landmaster Ltd., Hucknall, Nottingham.

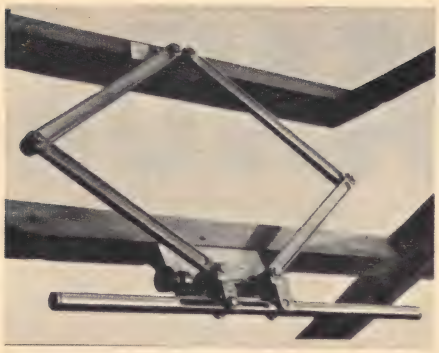
FLYMO 19in. airborne mower works on a cushion of air. Powered by a 2½ h.p. air-cooled 2-stroke engine it will cut 500sq. yds in 15 minutes. Features of the machine are —variable cutting heights down to ½in; can be used on steep banks; will cut long grass; gets under overhanging bushes easily; cuts between paving stones; cuts edges of paths and flower beds; it weighs only 28lbs so is easy to carry about and can be stored by hanging on a wall. Price, 36 guineas. Flymo Ltd., Greycaine Road, Watford, Herts.

PAVEX provides the means of surfacing or resurfacing any firm, even base. It is a tough, flexible, butuminous path into which natural coloured stone chippings are bonded. Supplied in yard wide 15ft. and 30ft. rolls which can be transported easily in the back of a car, Pavex has an adhesive under-surface protected by a release sheet which is pulled off in the action of unrolling the path. Providing the surface to be covered is even, dry and free of dirt and loose particles, the makers say the adhesive will give a lasting bond which is improved by exposure and sunshine. Pavex, being a barrier to air, light and water, will smother weeds. Prices vary from £2 10s. to £3 8s. 9d. for 15ft. roll and £4 10s. to £6 7s. 6d. for 30ft. roll according to colour. Temple Pavex, Temple Mill, Passfield, Nr. Liphook, Hants.

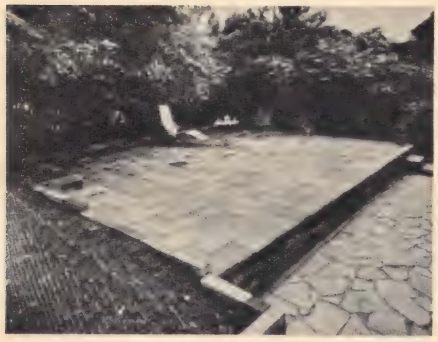


TOWN AND COUNTRY fencing provides the ideal combination of permanent rot-proof concrete posts and gravel boards, plus the charm of timber fencing panels. The pebble finished gravel boards eliminate the possible danger of rising damp from the ground. This fencing is simple to erect as the reinforced concrete posts have special timber inserts which make panel fixing just a matter of a few nails and a hammer. All types of Coates timber panels can be used in Town and Country fencing, with or without trellis tops. Price per 6ft. wide or less bay each consisting of one wooden panel, one gravel board and necessary accessories with Overlap fencing as illustrated, 6ft. high, 68s; 5ft., 64s; 4ft., 58s. 9d. Coates Fencing Ltd., Bristol Road, Bridgwater, Somerset.

MARLSTONE decorative paving combines variations of shade with the natural textured surface as in hand-tooled stone to give a mellow appearance. Suitable for terraces, paths, patios, etc,. Marlstone is available in three sizes—2ft. square, 2ft. × 1ft and 1ft. square, all 1½in. thick—which enables it to be laid in a variety of attractive patterns. The surface weathers well, provides a safe, pleasant paving for walking on and will harmonise with virtually any surroundings. Price, 22s. per sq. yard including free delivery by road to sites within 50 miles radius of Guildford, Cheltenham, Chorley (Lancs), Poole or Carluke (Lanarks) for minimum order to value of £8. A small extra delivery charge will be made in other cases. Marley Concrete Ltd., Peasmarsh, Guildford, Surrey.



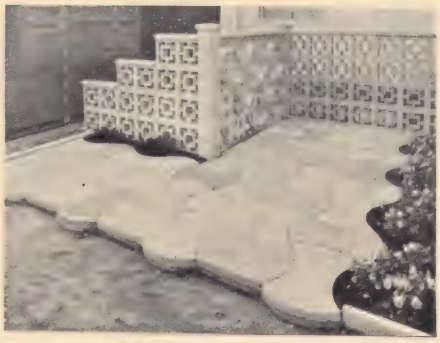
BAYLISS automatic ventilation units are self-contained, non-electric and can be set, after fixing, to start opening the ventilator at any temperature between 60°F and 100°F the vent opening wider as the temperature increases. The range of units includes the Mk. III centre fixing unit for wooden side vents (illustrated) which will operate vents weighing up to 12lb. at the point of attachment. Made of brass, stainless steel and aluminium, it is supplied in two sizes—for vents at least 20in. and 24in. wide. Price £5 12s. 6d. including packing and postage. Bayliss Engineering, Compton Street, Ashbourne, Derbys.



HORTEX paving can be laid easily and quickly because it is so light. The slabs are made in eight easy-to-handle sizes and in seven colours. It has a hand combed surface and is suitable for terraces, patios, paths, surrounds to swimming pools, etc. This company also make Supa Hortex with the texture of natural York paving in four sizes and colours and Driveway Paving which is hydraulically pressed 18in. square slabs 1½, 2 or 2½in. thick and in three colours. Also available is Hortex walling in reconstructed natural stone for 2, 3 and 6in. coursing heights The Atlas Stone Co. Ltd., Artillery House, Artillery Row, London S.W.1.

CAPITAL in-the-ground vinyl liner swimming pools are designed to appeal to the do-it-yourself enthusiast. The pool illustrated has been made from a Capital vinyl liner Pool-Pak "D" measuring 24ft. × 12ft. with depths of 3ft. to 5ft. Price £254. Pool-Paks are supplied complete with easy-to-follow installation instructions and drawings. The instruction booklet not only tells you how to locate and excavate your pool but covers other items such as footings and main drain, retaining walls, filter, heating and pool care. Pool-Paks are available for pools from 16ft. × 8ft. × 4ft. deep, £199, to 40ft. × 20ft. × 3ft. to 7ft. deep, £534. Capital Swimming Pools Ltd., 14 Church Street, Rickmansworth, Herts.

NEOLITE Grecian pattern is an unusual style for garden paving. As an alternative to the oblong, square or hexagonal shapes also supplied by Neolite, this pattern can be laid using only curved lines. Alternatively, it can be finished, if required, with straight edges. The pattern is based on a 17in. module for length and breadth, but if a curved edge is required, a further 3½in. should be added. These slabs are made to special order only and are priced at 5s. 8d. each in a choice of six colours—sand pink, grey, stone, slate, and two shades of red. Screen block walling is available in two patterns together with ancillary pillars, etc. and in one colour, light stone. Neolite Ltd., Borough Green, Kent.



TERRATONE coloured paving with its hand finished non-slip surface is ideal for outdoor paved areas and surrounds for modern architecture. Available in five pastel colours which are solid throughout the thickness of the slab, Terratone is unaffected by frost. Supplied in nine sizes 1½ or 2in. thick. Hexagonal slabs can be supplied when required. Terratone walling has a natural rock face finish, no two being identical, and is available in the same five colours. Suitable for dwarf retaining and front garden walls or as a surround for terraces and garden pools. Flat and round top edging is available in dove grey. Terratone Ltd., Estover Road, March, Cambs.

PUFFIN car-top dinghy, designed by Barry Bucknell, can be carried easily by two children—she weighs only 60lbs and is 7ft. 6in. long. Her chief virtue is her ease of stowage—almost flat against a garage wall for the winter, or on a car-top for transport. The lower half of her hull is plywood with built-in buoyancy; the topsides, blue to match the sail, are of p.v.c. on Terylene and are supported in position by struts. She sails well, is light as a feather to row even with 30 or more stone aboard and, unlike most small pram dinghies, she is as stable as a rock and virtually uncapsizable. You can buy "Puffin" ready to use or in easy-to-assemble kit form. Prices, kit Puffin dinghy, £38 15s; kit sailing Puffin, £49 19s; finished Puffin dinghy, £72 5s; finished sailing Puffin, £85 17s. Polycell Prout, The Point, Canvey Island, Essex.

BRADSTONE coloured paving is available in five natural stone shades—red sandstone, purbeck grey, lakeland grey-green, cotswold buff and brown hamstone—and 10 sizes, including octagonal and hexagonal, all 2in. thick. The paving is hand finished to prevent slipperiness. Homeowners faced with the problem of obtaining small amounts of different materials can purchase a package deal for any order over £10. This includes paving to selected colours and sizes; prepacked Cotswold mortar; prepacked cement; trowel; and How to Lay picture guide. Where a package deal is not required discounts of 2½ per cent are given on orders of £10 to £25, 5 per cent on £25 to £50 orders and 7½ per cent on orders over £50. Bradstone traditional paving in exposed Cotswold limestone, exposed Berkshire flint and traditional Cotswold is also supplied in a package deal. Edwin H. Bradley & Sons Ltd., Swindon, Wilts.

continued on page 577

Another pair of HANDS

THE neat, economical lines of this dinner wagon make it an excellent addition to your kitchen—an "extra pair of hands" combining a smart appearance with a large payload.

Made mainly with ¾in. blockboard the streamlined construction will appeal to the handyman with a limited amount of time to spare.

Both the tiers are supported by the sides of the wagon which are cut from the parent sheet in one piece, a device which saves time and makes for sturdy construction. After sawing clamp them together and sandpaper them to ensure that they are identical in size and shape. A cut is then made at the front inner faces to receive the forward end members which are one thickness of blockboard longer than the rear members to allow for recessing.

The end members both back and front are glued and countersunk screwed to one side-frame, care must be taken to ensure that the framework is square. When the first side of the wagon has been completed, wipe away excess glue which may have exuded from the joints. When the remaining side frame has been glued and screwed into place the bearers which support the bottom shelf may be set into position glued and screwed into place through the side frame, all screws are countersunk, the top edge of the bearer lies (2in.) below the top edges of the tower arms of the side frames and is made of 2in. × 1in. timber, either taken all round the bottom of the tray and mitred at the corners, or just running the length of the side frames.

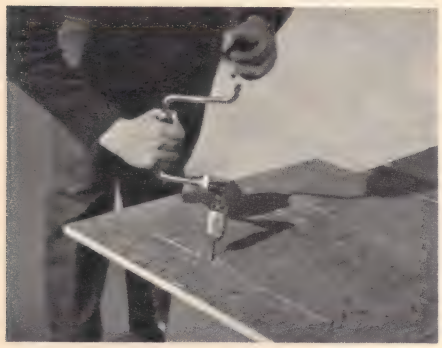
The partition which divides the bottle rack at the back from the rest of the wagon reaches from the top surface of the lower tray to the underside of the top tray, the forward face of the partition rests flush with the inside edges of the vertical section of the side frame. This partition is secured by gluing and screwing with countersunk screws through the side frames and the trays. Indeed, the top tray is partially supported by the partition—it rests on the upper edge of the partition and is glued and screwed through the side frames using about one screw every five inches—use brass countersunk heads 1½in. × 12. Some attention must now be given to the layout of the top tier. A cross member divides the tier into a small compartment for cutlery, and a shallow tray for plates, table mats, etc.—it also serves as a support for one end of the detachable tray and is cut to accommodate one handle. The other end of this tray is used to propel the wagon. Battens to support the wheels are the same thickness timber as the supports of the bottom tray and run across the wagon 5in. from each end. The wheels are set 2in. in from the sides—the larger these castors are the more easily will the trolley negotiate thick pile carpets and rugs.

The wagon is filled, primed and painted before the laminate is fitted to the inside of the trays, or the cutlery space is lined and partitioned with baize. We chose white gloss for the finishing coat, knocked back with a dash of grey to reduce the yellowing effect, but any colour spray or enamel will look well if you smooth down between coats.

The trays are finished with plastic laminate mitred at the corners—in the top tray the plastic finishes level with the cutaway section of the dividing cross member.

For the cutlery box baize is glued around the exposed faces of pieces of hardboard which are glued to the bottom and sides of the box, two slats are covered both sides in cloth, and used as partitions within the box. Fig. 20 explains the construction of the removable tray—the handles are glued and screwed to the tray body with brass screws from the inside.

BUILD THIS SCANDINAVIAN STYLE DINNER TROLLEY

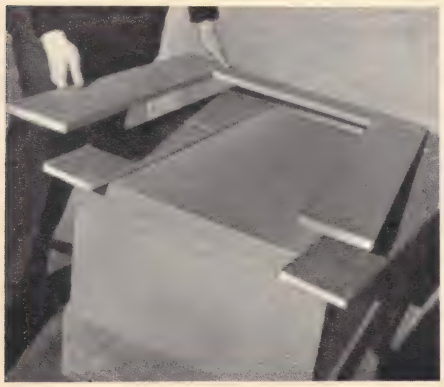


1 Drill an entry hole for the pad saw

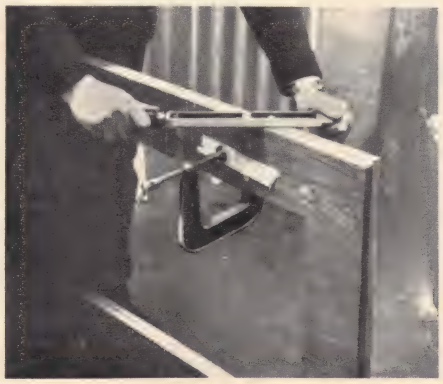
2 Providing you take your time, padsawing is easier than it looks

3 The first piece removed forms the two front cross pieces

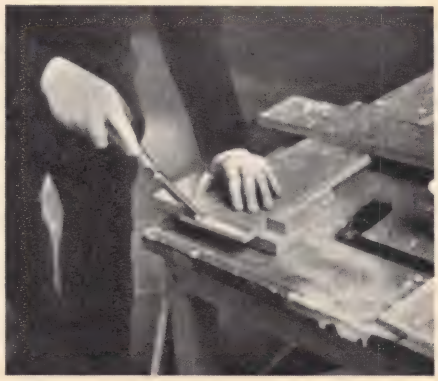
4 The two side frames cut from the main sheet



5 Clamp the sides together and trim them until they are matched

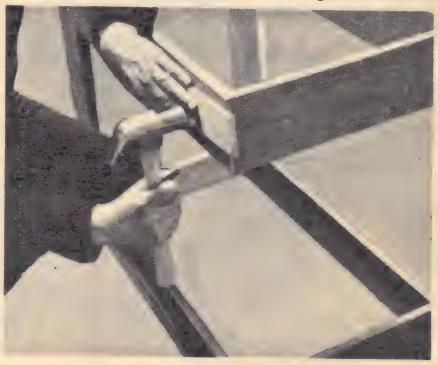


6 Clean up the front joint before its assembly

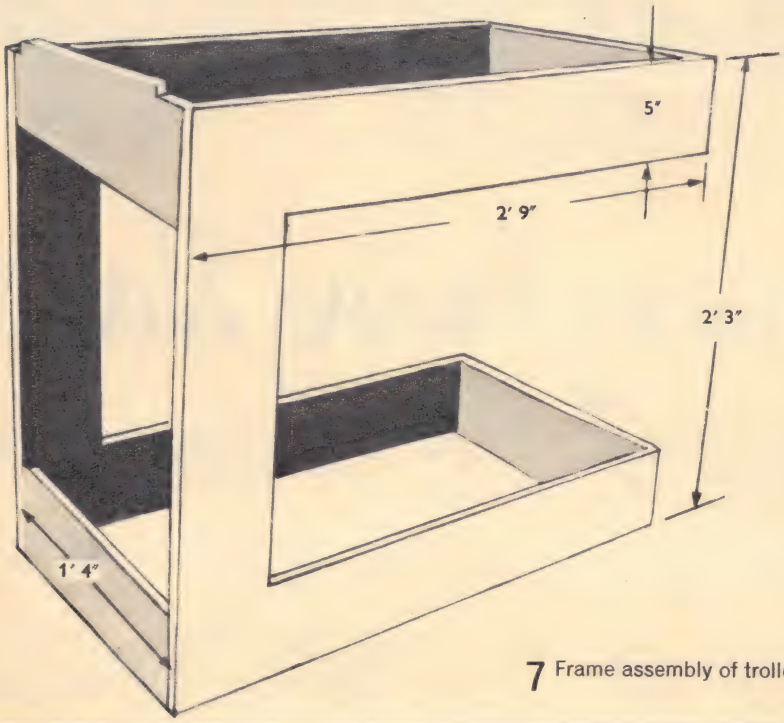


8 Make sure all the framework is truly square

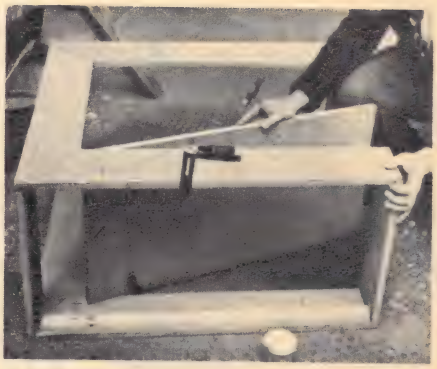
9 Tack on remaining side with small nails and tap square before drilling for screws



DESIGNED BY OLAF HANSEN

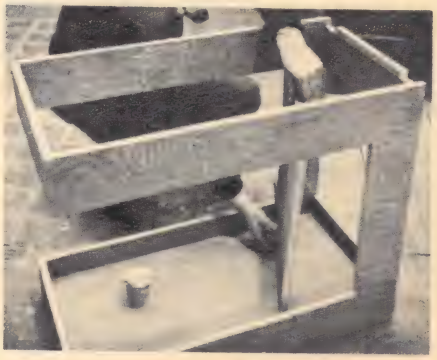


7 Frame assembly of trolley



10 Position the lower shelf against its support

11 The main partition forms a rest for the top tray



continued on page 578

Cutting Paving Slabs

1 Concrete slab and masonry work needs only simple tools—a bricklayer's or mason's hammer, a club hammer, a trowel, a cold chisel and bolster chisel and a straight edge

2 To cut a concrete slab, first scratch a marking line with the corner of the chisel

3 Then chisel lightly along the line, using frequent light blows; for amateur work, it is often more comfortable to use the light hammer rather than the heavy club hammer

4 The broad bolster chisel is then used to deepen the cut to about $\frac{1}{8}$in.; now turn the slab over and cut another notch, making sure it is made exactly opposite the first one

5 The ends, too, are notched to join the side cuts, completing notching all round

6 Raise the slab with your left hand on the scratch line and strike the face of the slab along the length of the line, using firm but not violent blows from the club hammer

7 Quite suddenly, the slab will 'give' and it will split apart straight down the line

CUTTING paving slabs (like cutting quarry tiles which was demonstrated in our March issue) is a job which requires a combination of the right tools plus a bit of practice. The tools are simple enough a sharp cold chisel or two and a hefty club hammer. The technique is fairly simple, too —persuading the slab to fracture along the desired line by first chiselling out a groove. The dodge works equally well with natural stone or, what are more common nowadays, the concrete paving slabs. With care and practice it is possible to do some really neat cutting to fit, with very little waste.

8 Irregular edges can be trimmed using the hammer and chisel to get smooth, even lines

9 The chisel-back of a bricklayer's hammer is also a useful tool for trimming and shaping; strike the slab so that the splinters fly away from your face; or wear goggles

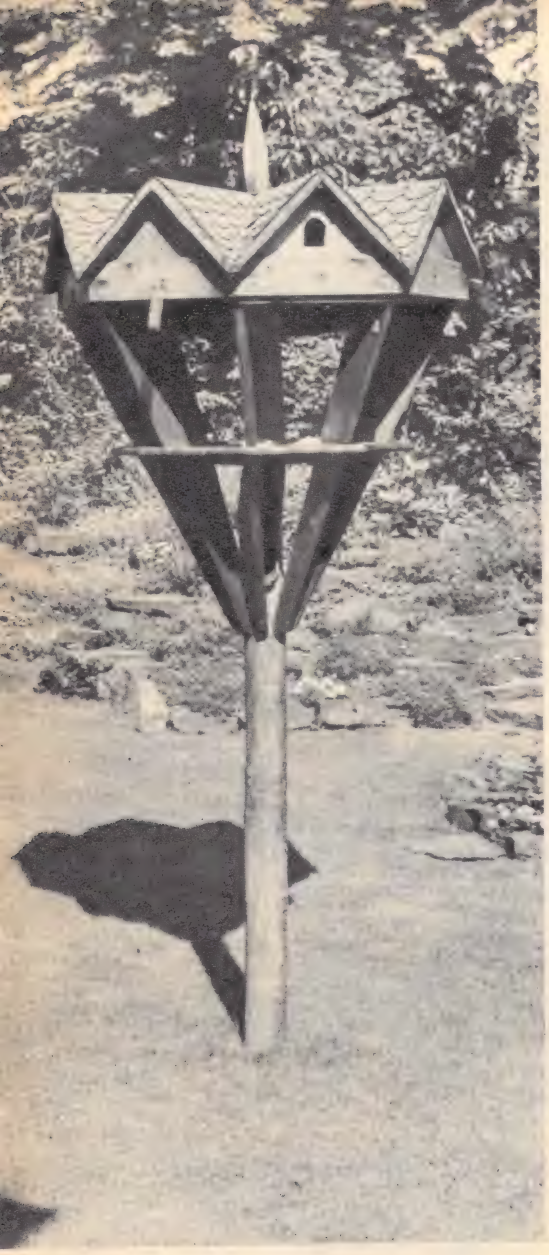
10 When trimming corners, always work *into* slab edge, not into corner or it may break

11 A heap of soft soil forms a useful work place in which a slab can be wedged tight

12 Rounded corners or exterior curves are relatively easy; chisel small sections at a time until the desired shape is reached

13 Interior curves are much more tricky—always work away from the corners, taking off small chips with blows of the hammer

14 Exterior and interior curves; acute, round and right-angled corners—the most complex shapes can be made with care and patience; follow the mason's golden rule—don't rush



BIRD SANC

HERE is a bird table with a difference. It combines functional and modern style; it is an interesting exercise in angles, and is a carpentry job well within the scope of the average worker in wood.

As it is not the sort of thing for which one should buy new, clean timber I am not providing a dimensional list of requirements, but sizes are indicated as each section is described. For my part I used old floorboards, apple cases and odd pieces from stock. The only purchases were roofing felt, 8in. × 3in. metal brackets, and the pole.

The pole is essential. Failing all else a sawn pole 4in. square would pass, but a "rustic" pole tapering from about 5in. to 4in. diameter by about 9ft. long is a "natural."

As will be seen from the photographs, the structure consists of an eight-gabled, roof sitting on an octagonal platform, supported by eight struts, springing from the central pole.

Part way up the struts is a feeding table. The gabled roof is covered with roofing felt cut into tile shapes, and four of the gables are partitioned off to form tit-nesting boxes. On top of all is a 9in. finial.

THE PLATFORM

Start by making the octagonal platform, which supports the roof. This is based on a circle 2ft. 9in. in diameter; so batten some $\frac{5}{8}$in. boards together (temporarily) roughly to give such a circle and mark out with a string and pencil spun from a central nail.

To draw the octagon, bisect the circle through the centre, and again at right angles. Again bisect the right angles, and join all points where the radials cross the circumference. Saw out the octagon.

Then, using similar timber saw eight pieces, each the length of the sides of the octagon, and about 3in. wide. Mitre the ends to $67\frac{1}{2}$ deg. and firmly nail them all round to form a rim.

If this platform is made firm and accurate it will from a template for the construction of the roof and save time and trouble.

THE ROOF

This is designed to sit snugly on the platform, with eaves overhanging by about 2in. Its base is an open framework of 2in. × 1in. on edge, as shown in Fig. 1, and of the same outside dimensions as the platform. The reason for building the roof on this open frame, rather than directly on the solid platform, is to facilitate cleaning, if and when the birds use the gables as nesting boxes.

The first stage in constructing the roof is to fit eight gable ends, one to each side of the octagon. These sides should be 13in. Therefore the width of the face of each gable should be about $13\frac{1}{2}$in. and the base of each $3\frac{1}{2}$in. wide, before angling off to the apex.

When attached to the frame they should extend $\frac{1}{2}$in. below the underside of the frame, forming a flange all round to provide a seating on the platform.

Before attaching them, however, a slot should be cut in the apex of each to receive the ridge members. These slots should be 1in. deep by $\frac{7}{8}$in. wide; and the ends of the flat portion at the base should be angled off so that they all fit comfortably together.

Four of the gable ends can be drilled with a $1\frac{1}{8}$in. hole for tit nests, whilst the other four can be left plain, or cut with pigeon holes, as illustrated. (Note: if it is intended to partition off sections for tit-nesting boxes, use the appropriate gable ends on those portions of the frame which are triangular in shape).

RIDGES AND GULLIES

When preparing these members, remember that the roof overhangs the gables by about 2in. all round; so, for the ridges, cut two pieces 3ft. long and four pieces 18in. long.

These should be $1\frac{1}{2}$in. × $\frac{7}{8}$in. thick, and one edge should be chamfered from both sides to approximate to the pitch of the roof. Half lap the two long members at the centre and position them in the slots cut in the apexes of the gables. At this stage it is as well to tack a small plywood boss at the centre on the underside to help in fixing the intermediate ridges. These having been sawn at one end to fit the angle, are fitted as shown in Fig. 2. When satisfied they are correct, carefully centre the structure and nail to the gable ends.

The strips for the gullies are about $\frac{3}{4}$in. square by 19in. long, running from the top, central boss to the points where the gable ends meet. These are best fitted individually, cutting a shallow housing for them at the junctions of the gables. Do not forget to allow them to project at least 2in. in every case.

The whole roof should now be covered with plywood or hardboard. Each piece must be cut individually to fit, although it is all to be covered again with roofing-felt tiles. The only difficulty lies in pinning the ply to the rather light battens.

TILING

Roofing felt comes in two weights: one is a thinnish plain black material, whilst the other is heavier, and mineral-coated. This is a more durable and attractive quality. It should be marked out on the back, which is uncoated.

First run a plain strip, 3in. wide, down each gully, from the apex to the edge.

The tiles, which should be cut in strips, not individually (see Fig. 5), are laid and pinned parallel with the ridges, and overlapped as illustrated. Work up to the ridge on all 16 slopes, then cap with a single strip as shown in Fig. 6, the width of which will

FIG 1

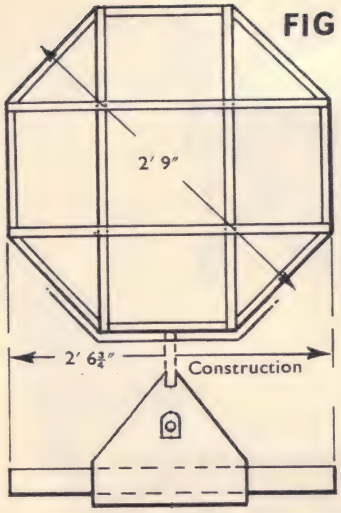
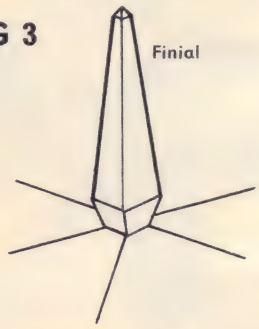


FIG 3



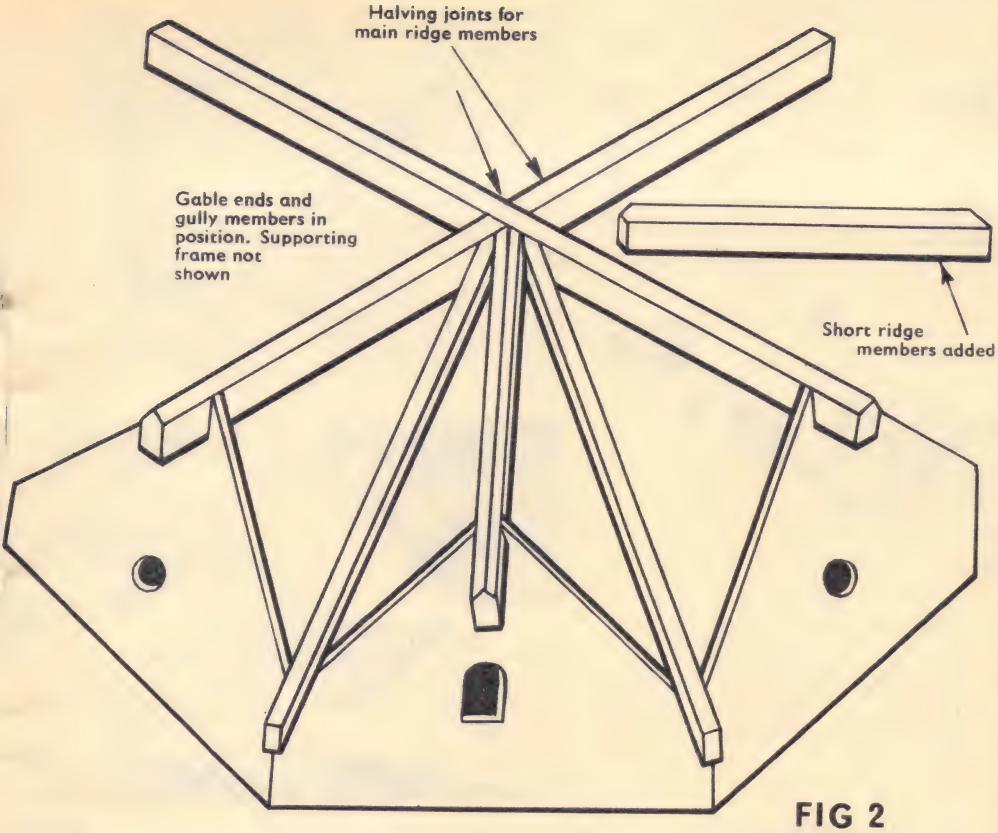


FIG 2

TUARY

BY B. M. WIELAND

depend on what is left to cover.

Care should be taken to see that where the various layers meet at the top centre, they are neatly finished off, then cap it all with a circular patch.

A final attractive appearance is added by surmounting it with a wooden finial, about 9in. tall cut from a piece of 1½in. square stuff, and drawn to a point, as shown in Fig. 3. This is fixed by driving a long screw right through the frame from the underside.

If it is desired to provide nesting boxes for the birds the triangular sections of the frame can be partitioned off with ply or hardboard.

The roof should now be set on one side pending preparation of the platform, post and feeding table.

To carry the weight of the platform and roof on the top of the post a couple of strong battens, 3in. wide at the middle, tapering to 1in. at each end, should be bolted to the top of the post, at right angles (see Fig. 4).

When fixing the platform ensure that its boards cross this support at right angles.

The main support, however, is in the form of eight buttresses, springing from the post to the eight corners of the platform. These are of ⅞in. timber, each 3ft. long, tapering from 3 in. wide at the top to 1in. at the base. The angles at which they meet the underside of the platform and the post are determined by trial.

At the bottom they are nailed into the post, at the top they are fitted to the platform with 3in. angle brackets.

There remains the feeding table which is built into the supporting buttresses about half way up, in such a way that the buttresses appear to pass through it. This is more difficult to describe than to do. Supporting battens are run from the buttresses to the post, and the flooring is fitted from the perimeter, starting with a frame which maintains the octagonal shape. The middle is then filled in with pieces of the same timber, each being shaped individually to fit. The outer edge is finished off with a run of half round beading.

To prevent the roof from blowing off in a gale, screw a hasp and staple on each side. Creosote the whole structure inside and out and sink the post 2ft. 6in. in the ground.

To date the only creatures to have built a nest in the original are a swarm of wasps; the cat loves to lie on the feeding table sheltered from the rain; and the local squirrel pinches all the nuts—but I am sure the birds would appreciate it if competition were not so keen.

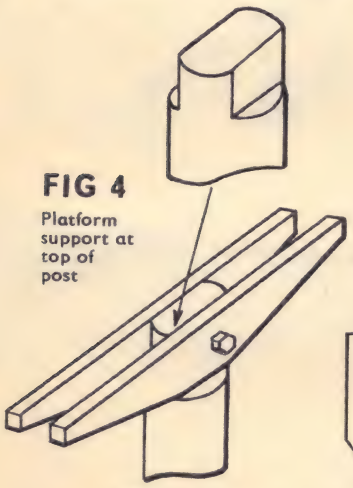


FIG 4 Platform support at top of post

FIG 5 Cutting and laying tile strips

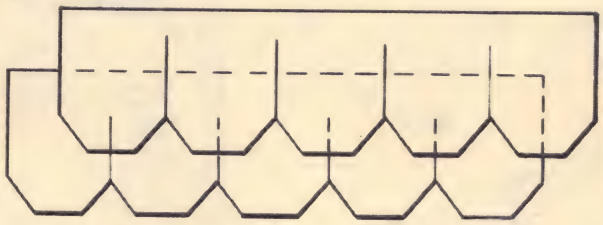
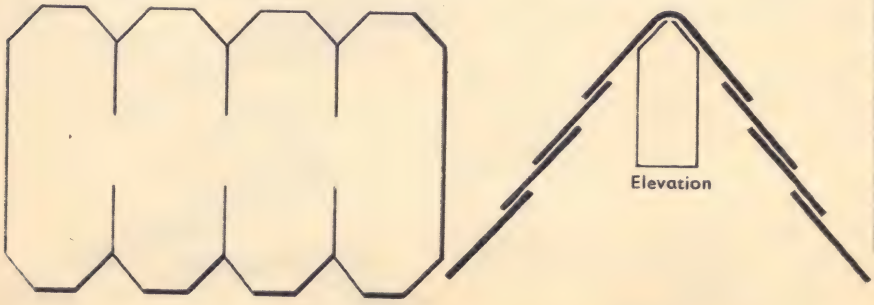


FIG 6 Ridge tile strip



Platform and table, with post, all ready for the roof assembly, lying in front

RIGHT IN FRONT

CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH

As a preliminary to fitting the door fit the threshold. The bottom of the frame is used as part of this so that from a standard piece of threshold joinery cut the first (front) 3in. off, with weatherdrip and apron slope, and screw it to the frame.

Cut the stile horns off the door, strip the panels as necessary and trim door to fit. This is then hung, easier with help, after sinking the brass hinges in the door stile first, leaving the pins proud on the inside face. Then hang the door.

The outside cladding system is easy to erect once the comprehensive but simply explained instructions, issued by Marley, the makers, is read.

The elegant Yale lockset and letter-box are a matching pair and, of course, the line of the lock-rose should run with the smartly anodised exterior letter flap.

The Celotex ceiling tiles are easy to handle and fix—and they are no trouble to trim to size.

Wall and floor tiling was easy—all surfaces were new and perfect. So there were no adhesion problems—or trouble with levelling. But work out the module size to ensure that you can start with a full module of the tile, either to match the floor or wall line of the joins.

The tiles we used are Malkin-Johnson's new Waverley, in a muted blue, both wall and floor grades.

A novel and attractive touch is the conversion of a ceiling light fitting as a porch wall fitting simply by weather-proofing the back.

1 As part of door threshold was formed by the dwarf wall and main frame, the front 3in. of the sill section only was used

2 The door, a standard joinery item, for upper glazing, with lower panelling, has the protecting horns sawn off the stiles

3 To fully glaze the door the panel beads were cut through with a power saw and freed fillets retained for glazing

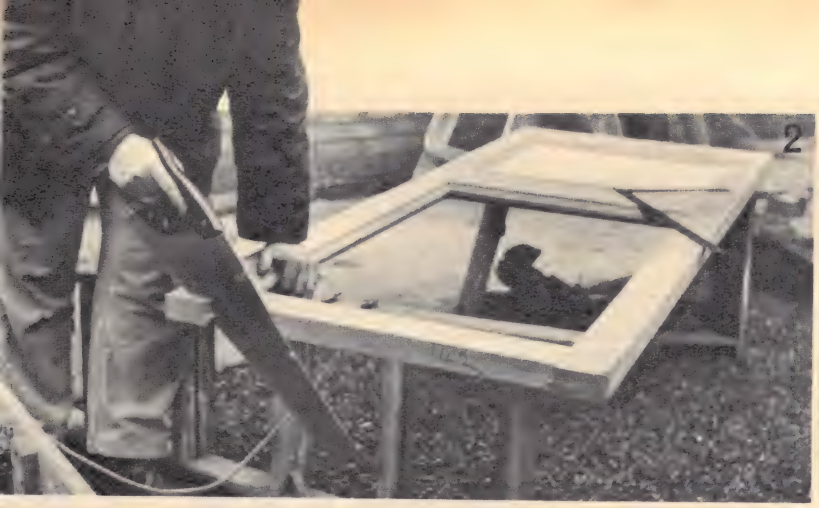
4 Here the panel is lifted, showing how the depth of cut leaves the rebate intact—and neatly surrenders the glazing beads

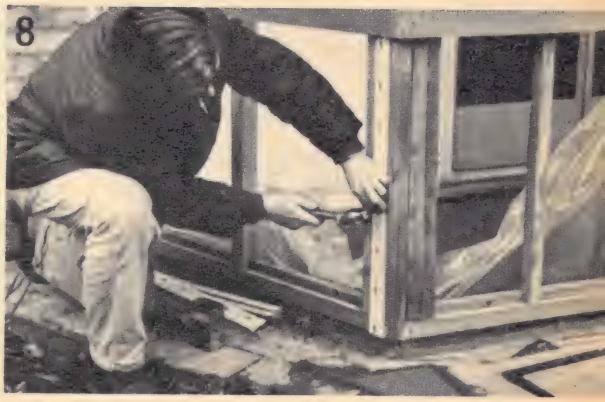
5 Inevitably a certain amount of trimming is required to allow for odd alterations in frame opening—just a few shaves

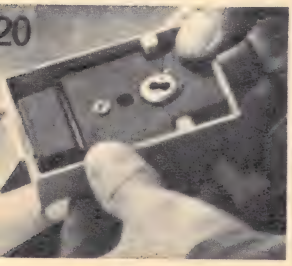
6 Before hanging the door a check for fit and clearance—hence the penny—is made on both hanging and closing door posts

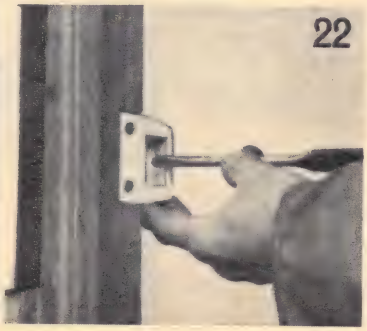
7 Standard 4in. brass hinges are first fitted to the door (rebated) and then, after marking and rebating, to the hanging post

8 The Marley Shiplap Siding system, made of vinyl, is fixed by its own secret fixing system, anchored to main timber grounds









9 With the two edge channels in position the bottom starter strip is fixed with the metal cleats in the side channelling

10 Channelling and starter strip ready to receive the first length of shiplap. Note how starter strip enters ½in. each end

11 Cutting the shiplap into lengths. The cut must allow for a half-inch insertion into the end channelling at either side

12 An eighth-inch saw cut is made in exact centre of the top of the first length. The length is then sprung into channels

13 The shiplap is sprung over starter strip so that the interlocking edges can be mated. Then nailed through cut to frame

14 Positive retention is made by pulling up on the interlock, then securing with the hook-like fixing cleats at 16in. centres

15 Here the progressive pattern is followed —spring in, hook up, fix at centres, via the saw cut, and secure with metal cleats

16 Method employed at the top is to take the shiplap beneath the running fascia and fix, inside, with flattened cleat

17 The Yale lock set matches the letter-box and must be carefully aligned to lock bar before drilling to take the cylinder

18 The back plate is located from edge on the inside, before being screwed in—to the cylinder and the inside door surface

19 Cutting the nib to correct length so that it fits comfortably into the inside latch handle when the assembly is fitted

20 The back of the lock assembly: the nib fits into the slot as the unit is located on the back plate, via a lip at one end

21 Then the assembly is secured by screwing in the two screws into the raised lugs integrally pressed with the back plate

22 When the lock has been fixed the striker plate is fitted into rebates, carefully marked from the lock on the closed door

Concluded on page 589

don't move BUILD ON

CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH

WITH the roof timbers erected covering can begin. First the rafters are covered with slaters' felt. Over this an extra insulation system of expanded polystyrene sheet is laid.

This sheet, Polyzote, made by Expanded Rubber and Plastics Ltd., is in standard building size sheets of 9ft. by 4ft., and is ½in. thick. This has very high insulation property and is easily cut with a sharp knife, as well as being light to handle. It is secured with a few galvanised nails and the bottom edge is wrapped round with polythene to protect it. And it is resilient enough to be unharmed by feet if one clambers about with reasonable care.

Battens for the tiles are 1in. by ¾in., fixed with 2in. galvanised wire nails. First batten is the eaves one, carefully fixed to a line drawn along the roof edge. Then the other battens are nailed at a 4in. gauge.

A trick used to make batten fixing easier is to make an 8in. wooden gauge, fixing battens first at the wider gauge and then fixing the intermediates, at a 4in. gauge. This gives more support for working.

Where lengths of batten have to be joined the join should be made on a rafter so that each end can be nailed.

The professional way of stacking tiles makes for easier working, too; a tile is set vertically on one batten and the others are loaded laterally on this, with one end tucked on a batten two gauges up. But distribute the load carefully as tiles are heavy.

If a roof is low pitched or in an exposed position the lap of the tiles should be reduced to 3in.

Nailing of tiles takes place at every fifth course, with galvanised nails.

The first course of tiles are at the eaves: these form an undercloak to the main tiling, which is run out to each hip, where tiles are cut, in some cases tile-and-half tiles are cut, to fit snugly beneath the hip bonnets.

Bonnets are all secured with 3in. galvanised nails and cemented into position, the finish being a very careful pointing off.

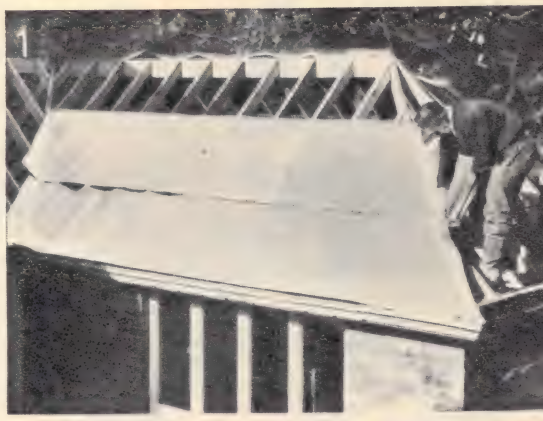
Valley tiles are laid, much the same as the bonnets, but no cement is required.

At gable ends tile-and-a-half tiles are cut to fit on alternate courses to compensate for the side lap—and where the roof abuts a wall it is weathered with flashings, made of 8in. lead soakers, which are bent at right angles of 4in. on each 90 degrees, then laid between the lap of the tiles and flush to the wall.

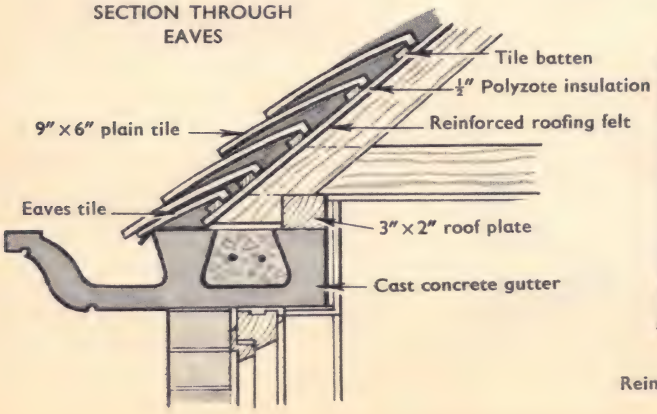
The soakers are then weathered off by flashings of lead, cut and stepped into the courses of the brick wall and cemented in the joints.

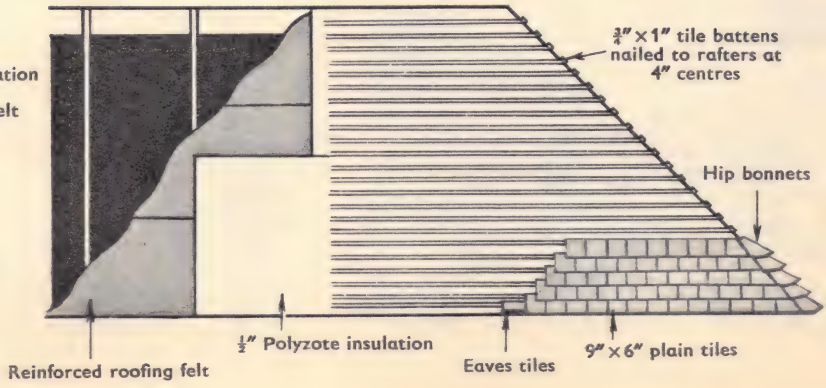
For the window sills two courses of the tiles are cemented at an angle under each frame, projecting about 3in. over the brickwork. To cut the tiles an abrasive disc in a saw-bench is useful.

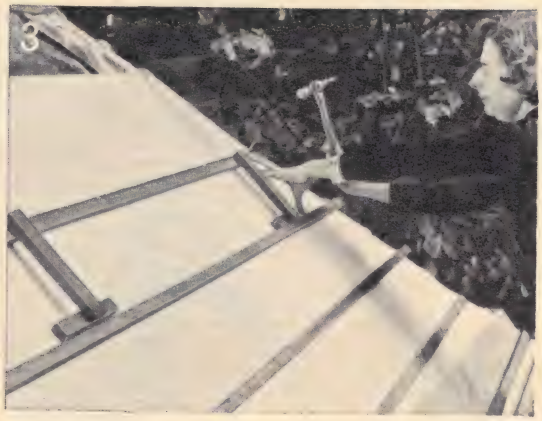
Materials used were chosen to match the existing structure, even to the leaded lights, made by a local works.

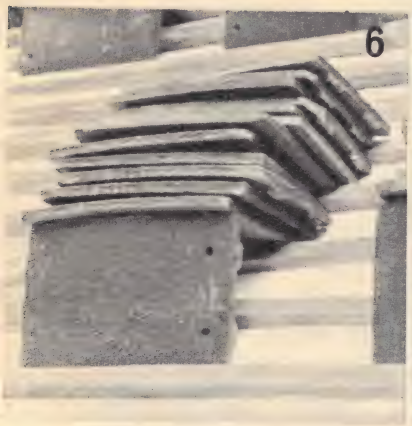


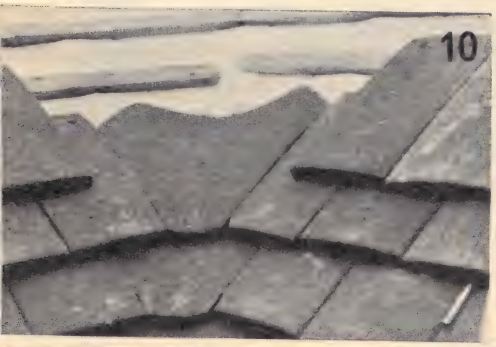
DETAILS OF TILING AND INSULATION

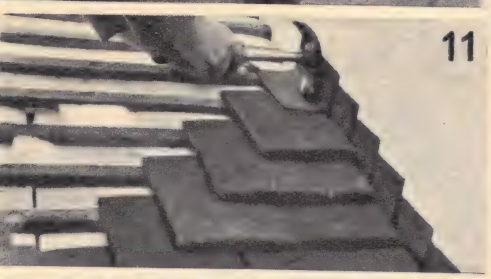












1 Fixing the roofing felt to the rafters—note that the felt is lapped, working from the bottom, and at the valley turn

2 The Polyzote sheet, wrapped at the bottom. Along this the line for the first batten is run, to give a start for the gauging

3 Taking up the battens with the 8in. cut gauge. Making two, with a tee-piece at the bottom, saves a lot of retrieving!

4 This picture shows how systematic work aids progress. With insulation laid at the bottom, battens give support

5 With insulation and main gauge battens laid, the intermediate battens are easy to fix with the more solid footholds

6 A simple trade method of stacking tiles before work commences: but remember that the tiles are heavy—so distribute load

7 At the hip: because of the rise of the bonnets a taut line is essential to keep the run straight as cementing takes place

8 The bonnet line must be true in two aspects: in line with the roof pitch and straight up from the hip foot to ridge

9 Tiling of the hip end roof area almost complete. Doing this, the most tedious job, makes the main tiling very easy

10 Tiling at the valley. Each tile, from the main runs, must be cut to fit the angle of the valley tiles precisely

11 Lead soakers being fitted, on top of one tile and beneath the next, and each soaker overlapping the other one

12 Over the top to finish off a run of tiles, from the main roof, to bonnets, then to the other hip, before starting other side

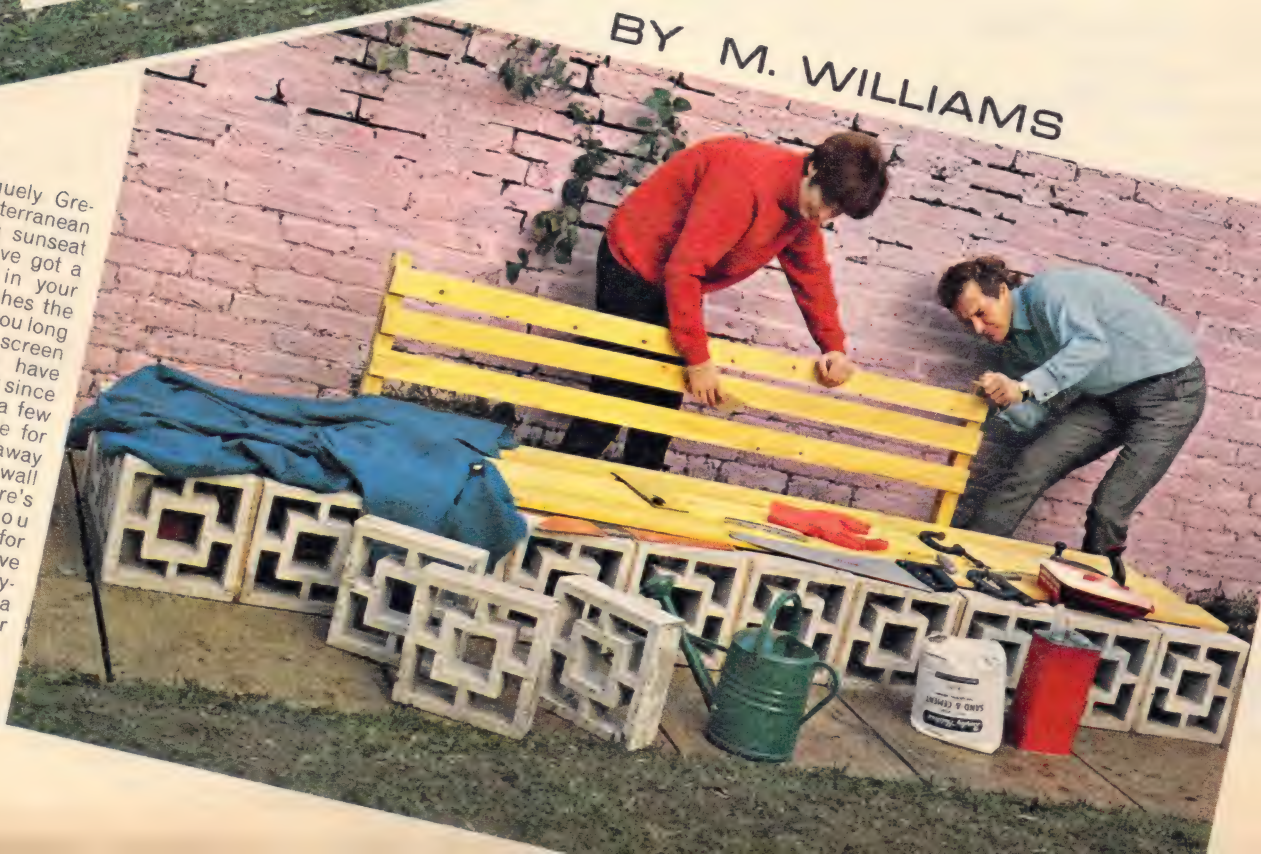
13 If you have a saw bench, or attachment for your drill, an abrasive disc on the arbor cuts tiles easily and accurately

14 The double run of tiles, lapped, being cemented in to form a window sill and a weatherproof course to the brick

PLACE IN THE SUN

BY M. WILLIAMS

There's a vaguely Grecian or Mediterranean look about this sunseat of ours. If you've got a wall or corner in your garden that catches the sun it won't take you long to build it with the screen wall blocks that have become so popular since we featured them a few years ago. Our use for them this time gets away from the usual wall though of course there's no reason why you shouldn't use them for this, especially if you've no convenient ready-made wall to serve as a wind breaker for our sunseat.



ALTHOUGH we wanted to make a permanent garden seat we had no suitable spot to build it, so we decided to lay a paved terrace on one side of the garden. There's a wide range of precast concrete blocks available and as these give you a professional-looking result with the minimum of hard work, they were ideal for the purpose. We chose Noelite paving squares, which come in a range of five attractive colours, all of which blend well with garden surroundings. You can buy these squares in different sizes, from 9in. × 9in to 24in × 24in. We used the 24in. × 24in. × 2in. squares, but unless you can be sure of some strong arms to help you, it would be advisable to use smaller slabs as the large ones are very heavy to carry and move into position (Fig. 2).

Once you've decided the size and colour of the squares that you are going to use it's time to prepare the site. Clear it and make sure that the soil is firm and even (Fig. 1). A foundation of hard core and ashes should be rolled in if the ground is soft to make it firm and level. The paving squares can lay in sifted soil or sand or be bedded in cement mortar. When laying slabs without cement mortar, a layer of sifted soil or sand ¾in. deep should be spread over the whole area. Arrange squares in position, leaving a ½in. gap between each slab, tap gently into position so that the slabs are even with the surrounding ones and make sure that they do not rock.

When all slabs are laid, fill in the joints with the sifted soil (Fig. 3). This may have to be re-done later as some of it may become washed away with the rain. Check that the level of the joint is slightly lower than the surface of the slab.

continued overleaf

MATERIALS REQUIRED

2in. × 2in. timber
(Allowing 1in. for joints, approx 29ft. needed)
2 lengths at 5ft. 10in. (a & b)
3 ,, at 1ft. 10in. (c, d & e)
2 ,, at 2ft. 6in. (f & g)
2 ,, at 12in. (h & j)
2 ,, at 11in. (k & l)
1 ,, at 2ft. (u)
⅝in. × 3in. timber
3 lengths at 6ft. (m, n, p)
¾in. × 7in. timber
3 lengths at 8ft. (r, s, t)

PLANT BOX

1in. × 5 5/16in. timber
3 lengths at 1ft. 6in.
1in. × 6in. timber
8 lengths at 1ft. 6in.
1in. × 1in. timber
4 lengths at 11in.
2 ,, at 1ft. 6in.
2 ,, at 1ft. 4in.
2 dozen screen wall blocks
Sand, cement and wood preservative
Slab of foam for seat, 6ft. × 2ft.
3 feather pillows, 24in. × 15in.
Screws, glue

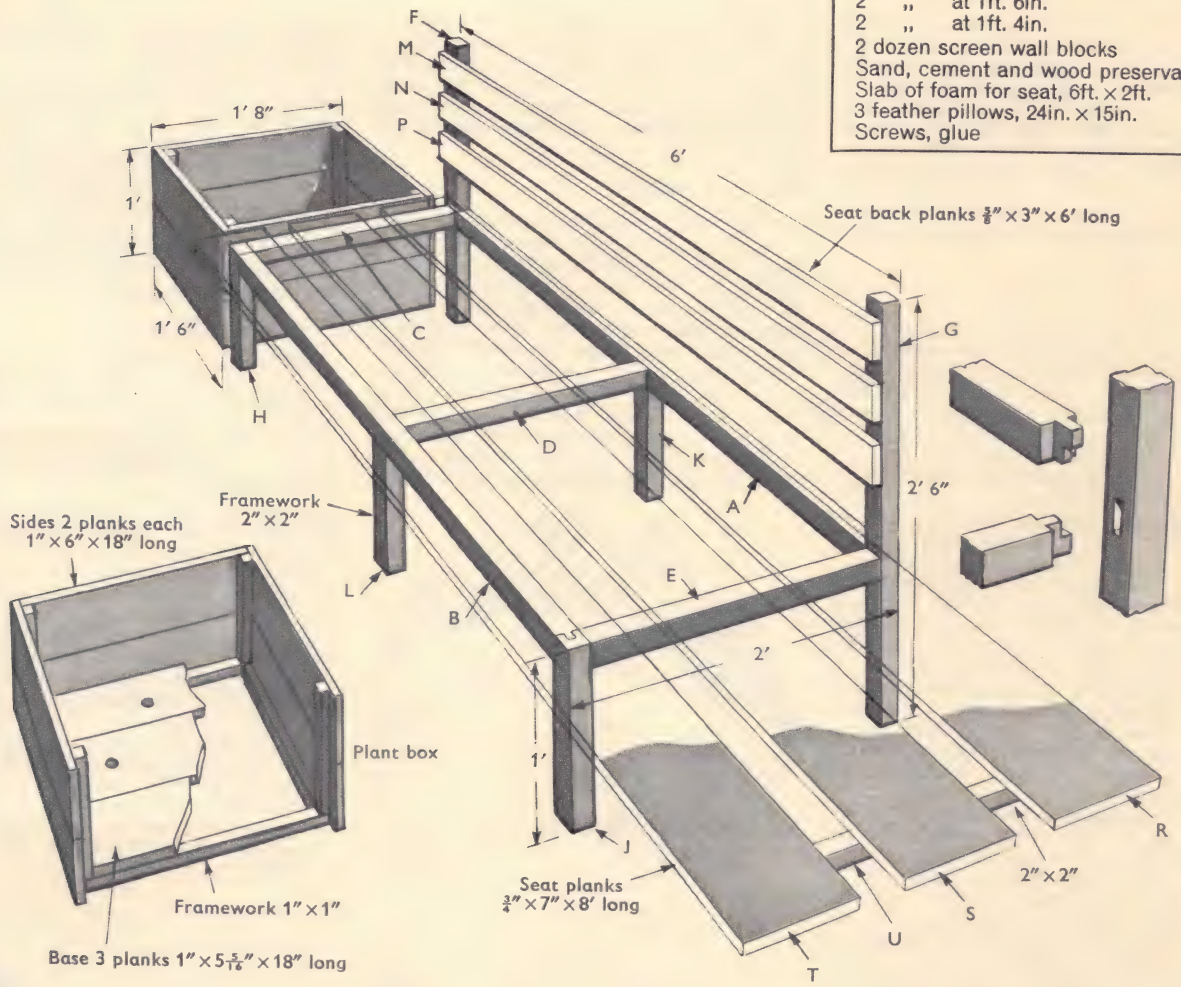


Fig. 1: Make sure the soil is firm and even

Fig. 2: Position these slabs one at a time

Fig. 3: Fill in the joints with sifted soil

Fig. 4: Pour water in a depression made in the centre of the sand and cement mixture

Fig. 5: Apply mortar to the block and make groove down the centre for better suction

Fig. 6: When blocks are in position, slice off excess mortar from joints with trowel

If you wish to bed the slabs in cement mortar, prepare the ground as before and lay the slabs in a mortar mix of five parts of sand to one of cement. Lay the slabs one at a time in a mortar bed at least 1in. thick. Fill the joints with a fairly dry mix to avoid the mortar sticking to the surface of the slabs. When mixing the cement mortar, always use water that is good enough for drinking; this is to ensure that the water does not contain any impurities that will affect the cement.

SEAT BASE

For the base of the garden seat, we used screen wall blocks which are available in many attractive patterns and colours. Ours were white Italia screen blocks by Redland Tiles Ltd. These can afterwards be painted or treated with a silicone water repellent to protect them from damp and dirt. You can buy paints with a cement base that are suitable for painting on concrete. They contain a waterproofer and hardener and can be applied to damp or green cement. They're supplied as a powder for mixing with water. For successful work it's essential that the mixing instructions are carefully followed. These blocks, when made up with the mortar between them, measure 12in. × 12in.

Lay a rectangle of blocks, as shown. As they are being laid on square slabs, it should be easy to make sure that they are in line. As we would not be needing much mortar for this job, we bought bags of ready mixed sand and cement. Mix the mortar on a clean, flat surface (Fig. 4).

If you are going to use coloured blocks, use a mixture of mortar that will match the colour of the blocks when it's dry. It's advisable to wear a pair of strong rubber gloves if you are inexperienced in such work, to avoid getting rough, red hands from the mortar and blocks. A 10in. narrow-shouldered trowel will be found the easiest to use. Mortar the block, making a groove down the centre to provide better suction (Fig. 5).

Slice off the excess mortar from the joints (Fig. 6) and make sure that there are no mortar drips on the surface of the slabs. Always keep a bucket of water and a sponge handy to wash away any surplus mortar that might drop on to the terrace.

SEAT FRAME

The wooden framework of the garden seat is made of 2in. × 2in. timber. When the framework is finished, sand it until it is smooth and then treat it with a preservative. We used Cuprinol Green preserver as it is non-injurious to plant life. After this treatment the wood can be painted if you wish.

Cut all the timber to required lengths and make the joints. Glue sections together, using an adhesive suitable for outdoors (Fig. 7) and then sand down (Fig. 8). Make sure that the frame and legs are quite square. Next, screw the three lengths of wood for the back support on to the uprights, using non-rusting screws (Fig. 9). The planks of wood for the seat can now be fixed in position (Fig. 10). Check that when the wooden framework is in contact with the front screen blocks, the edge of the front plank is flush with the outer surface of the screen blocks. Add a strut (U on the diagram) a few inches from the end to retain the planks. Make a simple plant box, as shown in the diagram, to fit into the space at the right of the seat. Remember to drill drainage holes in the base, as shown. This can later be filled with soil and have flowers planted in it.

Fig. 7: Glue the framework joints; remember to use glue which is suitable for outdoors

THE CUSHIONS

We chose a washable, crease-resisting material to cover the foam seat and cushions. It is an Acrylic repp, 48in. wide, made in a wide range of colours by John Lewis & Co. Ltd. They also stock a large range of feather-filled cushions in many sizes ready for you to cover in your own material. We made simple box covers for the three cushions and a large box cover for the foam slab used on the seat.

To make a box cover, cut two pieces of material the size of the top of the foam slab, plus ½in. allowance on all sides for turnings. Cut four boxing strips the length of edges of slab plus ½in. turnings. Stitch the four strips together to make a ring. In stitching, always take up a little more than the ½in. allowance, to ensure an extra close fitting. Stitch the top cover to the ring on all four sides. Stitch the bottom cover piece to the ring on three sides only. Leave it open at one short edge to insert the foam. The remaining open edge can be over-stitched by hand or fitted with a zip to make it easy to remove the cover for washing.

Fig. 8: When the framework is erected, sand down the wood until it has a smooth finish

Fig. 9: Screw the back support timbers on to uprights with brass or galvanised screws

Fig. 10: Attach the seat planks on to frame and secure them at free end with cross-bar

DRY LINING OF WALLS AND CEILINGS

by PETER N. BURNARD

Applying the Gyproc Joint Finish.

ONE of the most difficult trades to master, and carry out with any degree of success, is plastering. The skill of using the mortar-board, the plasterer's trowel, float, hawk, screed boards, and so on, can take years to develop to a high standard of proficiency. This immediately poses a problem for the handyman, who, during the course of some project, wants to renew an old, or fix a new, ceiling, renew walls where the plaster has perished or is crumbling and, of course, finish the walls of a new structure, or the partition walls to divide a room.

The Thistlebond method of dry lining internal walls has been developed by British Gypsum Ltd. Using this method, a wall can be lined using no special skills beyond those of any practical man. A surface finish equal to the finish produced by an experienced plastering craftsman can be obtained. Simply, the method is to place a series of dabs of Thistle Board Finish Plaster on the wall to be lined. Against this is pressed a 3 ft. wide × ⅜in. plasterboard running from floor to ceiling. The edges of the boards have a slight taper to take the joint filler and finish; the familiar ivory surface of the plasterboard faces outwards from the wall to give the finish.

CEILINGS

In order to obtain good results the 'modus operandi' must be strictly adhered to, with care and accuracy exercised when measuring and cutting the plasterboards, and fixing them in position.

For ceilings, the Gyproc plasterboards are cut to length to allow the ends to finish midway across a ceiling joist. The boards are nailed with 1¼in. × 14 g. galvanised nails at 6in. intervals, the heads being driven home to dimple the face of the board without fracturing the surface. To drive the nails accurately into the joists, the position of each joist is first marked on the walls with chalk.

Aluminium foil-backed plasterboard greatly increases the thermal insulation of the ceiling, especially if the joists are covered with building paper or polythene to form a still air space.

WALLS

Having fixed the plasterboards to the ceiling, work can commence on the walls. Starting from one corner, chalk marks are made along the walls 18in. apart and, with the aid of a level and straight edge, vertical lines are drawn from floor to ceiling. These lines form the pattern for the Thistlebond dots which are applied to align and level the wall.

Check over the wall with straight edge and level to find the high spot—this gives a guide to the level at which the dots should be fixed.

FINISH PLASTER AND 'DOTTING'

A bucket of Thistle Board Finish Plaster is mixed to a buttery consistency and, with a pointing trowel, a dab of plaster is placed on the wall. On to this is pressed a thin fibre pad, 3in. × 2in., to form a dot. The dots are placed on the chalk lines, one 9in. from the ceiling, one 4in. from the floor and a third in the centre. This procedure is carried out at 6ft. intervals around the room and the dots plumbed with each other. At corners, the dots are placed an inch or so from the angle.

The plaster sets quite rapidly, so the dots soon firm up, allowing the intermediate dots to be fixed on every chalk line, plumbing and levelling each time.

The accuracy of the finished job depends upon the dots, so care at this stage will help produce a level and straight wall.

More Thistle plaster is mixed and placed on a suitable board called a "spot"; now a hawk and trowel are used and a trowel full of plaster is scooped from the hawk and dabbed on to the wall. Each dab should be the length of the trowel, 2in. to 3in. wide, and thick enough to stand proud of the dots. Starting at an angle, a series of the dabs is

Continued overleaf

1 Fixing Gyproc Insulating Wallboard to ceiling joists. Note how ends of boards are staggered and the tapered edges run at right angles to the joists

2 As last ceiling board goes in, polished aluminium backing is clearly visible

3 Plumbing top and bottom dots. Note the wall has been marked out at 18in. centres to ensure exact positioning of dots

4 Lining through top dots with a straight edge

5 Lining through bottom dots. Note timber grounds for radiator

(RIGHT) DETAILS OF GYPROC THISTLEBOND METHOD OF DRY LINING

placed, between the dots, to receive the first plasterboard.

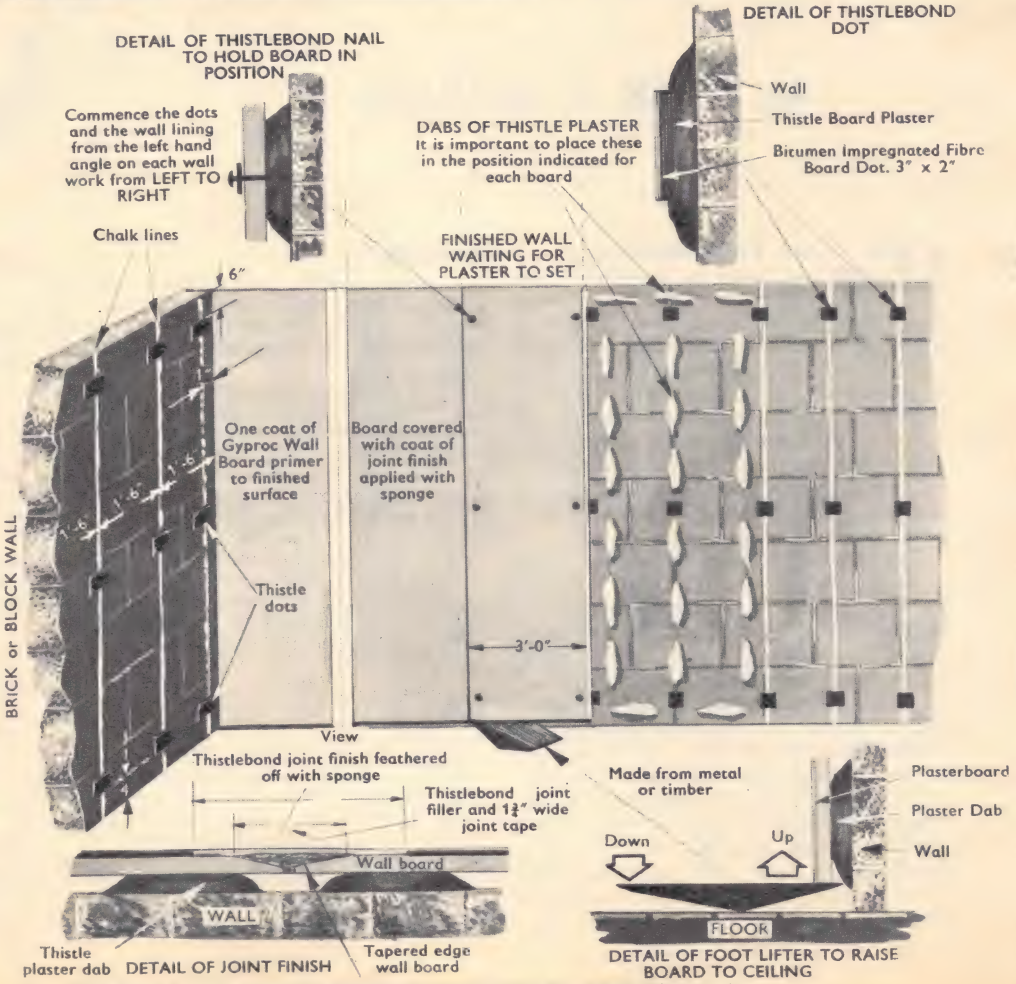
The 3ft.-wide Gyproc wallboard, cut to length beforehand to suit the height of the room, less 1in. or so, is now offered up to the wall and firmly tamped back to the dots with a straight-edge. The board edges are kept vertical and positioned so that the leading edge centres over a line of three dots. The dabs are flattened out between the board and wall to give the necessary adhesion. Using a foot lifter, made from timber, the board is levered up to fit tightly to the ceiling.

SPECIAL NAILS

In order to hold the plasterboard in position, and to keep it tight against the dots until the plaster sets, Thistlebond double-headed nails are driven through the board into the six dots round the edges of the board. The double head of the nail allows easy removal when the plaster has set.

Reveals and soffits are measured, the plasterboard cut, each piece placed into position on plaster dabs, and tamped into place; soffit pieces need supporting for an hour or so with timber props. The leading edge of external angles should be a "bound edge" and not a "cut edge." All cut edges should be run to the internal angles.

When all boards are fixed, the joint treat-



Note: Last board is cut to width. Cut edge goes into angle. Last line of dots 1" from angle.

6

7

8

9

6 Dot projecting switch box and cable. Cable to be sheathed before lining.

7 Fixing dot

8 Lining intermediate dots from top to bottom

9 Apply dabs of Thistle Finish for first board

13 Board with cut-outs being placed in position

10

11

12

13

10 Lifting board before tamping back on to the dots

11 Nailing the board. Double headed nails are withdrawn when plaster has set

12 Relationship of dots and dabs for one board

ment to both ceiling and walls may now be commenced. Using the joint filling knife, a seam of Gyproc Joint Filler is spread along the joint, a length of Gyproc joint tape is pressed into this and another seam of filler spread over the top; the jointing sponge is used to see that the filler does not build up too thick—it must be left below the level of the surface. Joint filler is knifed over the nail heads on the ceiling. The joint filler is allowed to set before applying the joint finish.

JOINT FINISH

Gyproc Joint Finish is mixed, preferably with warm water. This forms a smooth butter-like material and is spread along each joint with the joint finishing tool, in a wide band; the edges are feathered off with the circular sponge. The nail heads are also gone over with this joint finish. Jointing tape is folded and pressed into the internal angles with a seam of joint finish; a small paint brush helps to keep the angle clean and accurate. All external angles have Flex-Corner tape bedded into position with Joint Filler and then Joint Finish. The paper tape has two steel strips incorporated into it to give complete protection to the angle from damage.

To complete the work a thin slurry of Gyproc Joint Finish is mixed, the circular sponge is dipped into this and a layer is spread all over the wall surface, using a circular motion. This will even up the texture between the boards and the joints. Care must be taken to ensure cleanliness of tools, buckets, etc., when carrying out the jointing procedure.

The use of Gyproc Wallboard Primer is recommended. This is painted on to the ceiling and walls to seal the boards ready to take any form of decorating. Given a coat of plastic emulsion paint, it should be almost impossible to see or detect any joint in the room.

Fixings to the walls are no problem for light loads—a No. 8 drill is run through the plasterboard into the wall, then a No. 8 Rawlplug with a spacer between the wall and board is quite sufficient. Where a fixing is known before lining, wooden blocks may be nailed to the wall in the appropriate position. After dry lining, the fittings are simply screwed through the plasterboard into the timber pad with normal wood screws ⅜in. longer than usual. Electric wires in conduits are also placed into position before fixing the wall boards. As will be readily apparent, this system has much to commend it; the thermal insulation of the room is increased, no lengthy drying-out periods are necessary, no arduous mixing and carrying of cement/sand. A room may be decorated and finished within a day or so. This is why the system is now being used so much in multi-storey and modern building construction.

(Continued on page 590)

make a SPLASH with a SUN-ROOM

THE summer can seem a long way off in early spring, and even when it arrives it's often not so hot! Memories of sun-soaked Mediterranean terraces were really partly responsible for this idea of ours—a patio or sun lounge which would give the illusion of being out of doors and make the most of the fleeting sunshine of our fickle climate. And yet protect us from the keen winds. A kind of half-way house—not so shut in as an ordinary room—not so chilly as the garden.

The location was really self made for us as our dining room door to the rear garden opened on to an area bounded on two sides by the house and facing south west—ideal for viewing spectacular sunsets, and warmth.

There were drawbacks of course. Being a bungalow it would be necessary to limit the overall height of the sun room so that the new roof did not exceed the height of the eaves. Also the construction would have to be able to pass as much light as possible because it would be constructed across a bedroom window—had this been a living room the window could have been converted into an opening or had a pair of doors installed. But we did it and are more than pleased with the results. If you'd like one, read on.

BY MIKE O'BRIEN

Upholstered Chairs by Greaves & Thomas — 'Revolvers' @ £27 each, approx. Blind material by Moygashel — Pattern Skye @ approx. 18s per 48" wide yard. Carpet, John Crossley's Criterion Cord. Colour Avocado. Spotlights by Rotaflex. Picnic table by Desmo.

When the sun does shine, you can take your deck chair out into the garden—and bring it in again just as quickly if it gets cool. Or sit inside with the doors open.

For no-trouble gardening, bedding plants, bulbs and flowering shrubs are the answer—and paving flags need no upkeep either. A few annuals in the beds, which can be forked over quickly in the autumn, complete the scheme.

The pool passes under the glass screen wall—about an equal area of water is actually inside the lounge. Fish and flowering aquatics are thus protected against the rigours of our winters.

For full details of construction turn the page

make a SPLASH with a SUN-ROOM

Cutting the first sod! You can usually find a use for the unwanted turf elsewhere or a neighbour will be glad of it for compost

SOME focal point in the sun-room was necessary so we devised the elevated pond and coupled this with the craggy look of exposed facing bricks on the two walls adjacent to it. To avoid loss of light it was essential to have a transparent or translucent roof, but due to personal preferences we decided not to have the whole roof area transparent. An inevitable question is how to ventilate a sun-lounge, especially with the pond, to avoid excessive heat and humidity. We settled on louvres which provide this ventilation admirably as well as the normal changes of air one would want in a room such as this, and yet remain attractive in appearance. Removable panels blank off the louvres when the healthy draught is temporarily inconvenient.

Once our basic requirements were known an accurate measurement of the area was made and drawings prepared. These were then sent to the council offices for approval. I feel it is always advisable to have a chat with the local Building Inspector before submitting drawings, for his advice and comments are always worth hearing. Approval usually takes about one month and once received construction can go ahead.

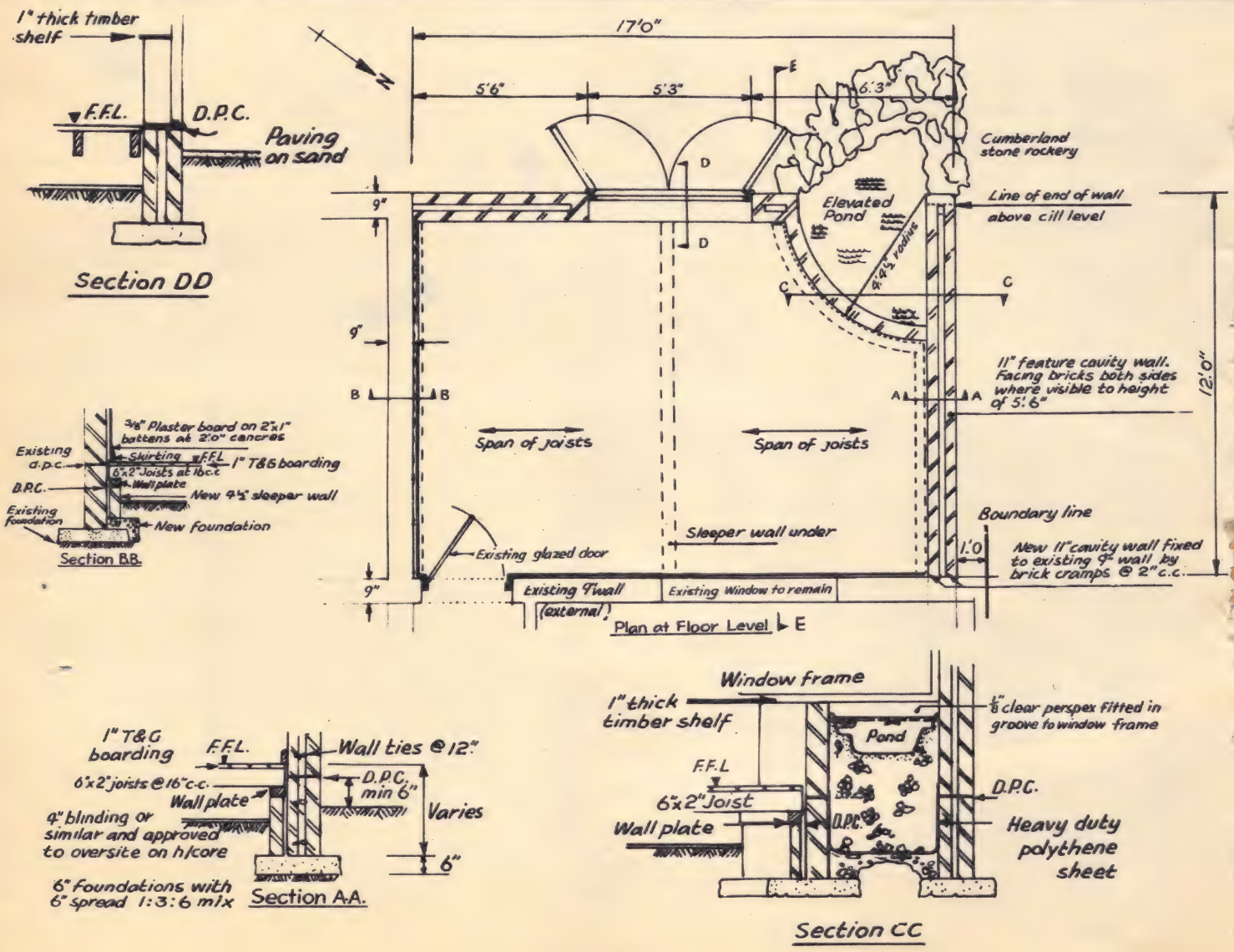
The darkish top soil should be removed from the entire area to be covered by the extension and the main foundations dug to such a depth as to provide a firm base. (If the sub soil is clay the Building Inspector may ask you to dig down as much as 3ft. to avoid the effect of the clay near the surface swelling and contracting in wet and dry weather.)

It is essential that the trenches be dug accurately as the Building Inspector will not accept the walls bearing too near the edge of the foundation. Once the trenches are completed and cleaned up the Building Inspector will need to see them before concreting takes place.

The concrete should be mixed drier than normal—not because it makes it lighter and easier to carry and spread, but because it will be stronger and more capable of resisting excess moisture in the ground. The concrete must be finished to a level that is compatible to the courses of the bricks and to a tolerance of no more than ± ⅜in. (plus or minus ⅜in.).

The corners should then be established to line and level and built up a few courses. Bricklayers' lines can then be stretched out and the infilling bricks laid. This procedure is then continually repeated with checks for overall square, level, and plumb being made from time to time.

It is not proposed to go into the secrets of bricklaying in this article as these have been adequately covered in the January and February '68 issues of P.H. except to say



that where the bricks lower down in the construction will ultimately be covered by the earth it is more economical to use a cheap fletton rather than the facing bricks.

During the bricklaying operation the stage will be reached when the damp proof course (d.p.c.) can be laid. It is absolutely essential that this is done carefully and correctly. Under no circumstances should it become punctured or bridged across by a porous material (e.g. mortar). Junctions of two d.p.c's. are always suspect and should receive careful attention. The Building Inspector will undoubtedly want to inspect the d.p.c. or the d.p.c. level before any further work is carried out.

The insertion of air bricks is absolutely essential if a hollow timber floor is to be used to provide adequate ventilation to the floor. The clear area of the air bricks should be equal to 1½ sq. ins. per foot run of wall. These bricks are available in a variety of sizes, all fitting into the bond of the brickwork (i.e. 9in. x 3in., 9in. x 6in. etc.) and should be inserted below the floor level.

If raked-out joints are required (as in these photographs) this should be executed as the work proceeds but obviously not before the mortar has had time to set a little. The surface of the brickwork should be regularly brushed with a stiff broom to avoid mortar staining.

The brick structure was of a rather unusual shape due mainly to the location and design of the pond. Forming the curved internal wall to the pond is rather a lengthy job as it cannot be built with a line, therefore each brick has to be levelled and plumbed-in individually.

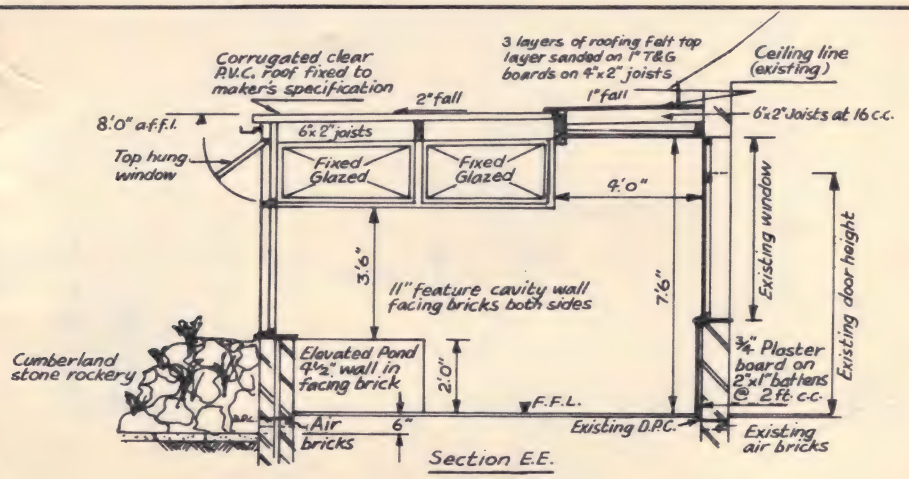
If the radius of the wall is small (i.e. less than 12ft. or so) as in most instances it will be, it has to be built in snap headers (bricks cut in half and bedded with the header showing). If one gives this a little thought the reasons are apparent, for the curve is really made up of many facets and the smaller each is the smoother will be the general line of each course.

Great attention must be given to the exposed brickwork within the room as this will obviously receive more scrutiny than any

Sleeper wall laid close to house wall; the spaces between the bricks are there to assist the air flow for the ventilators

The foundations for the pond wall and main wall; the sleeper walls have also been completed by this stage

Working on the 11in. cavity wall; some joints close to camera have been raked out before finishing; wall ties (not visible) are in



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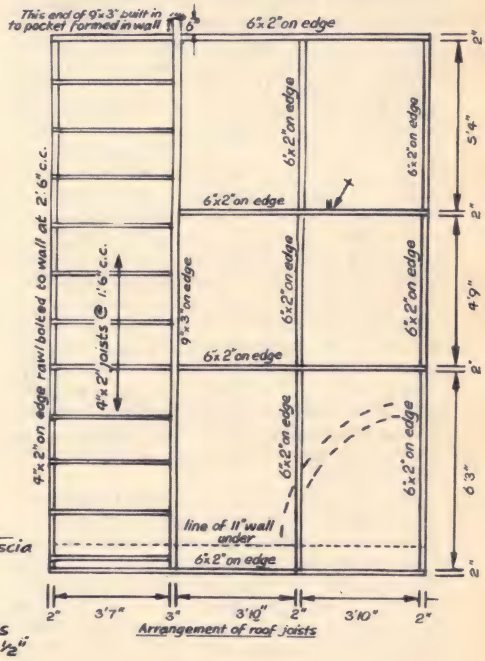
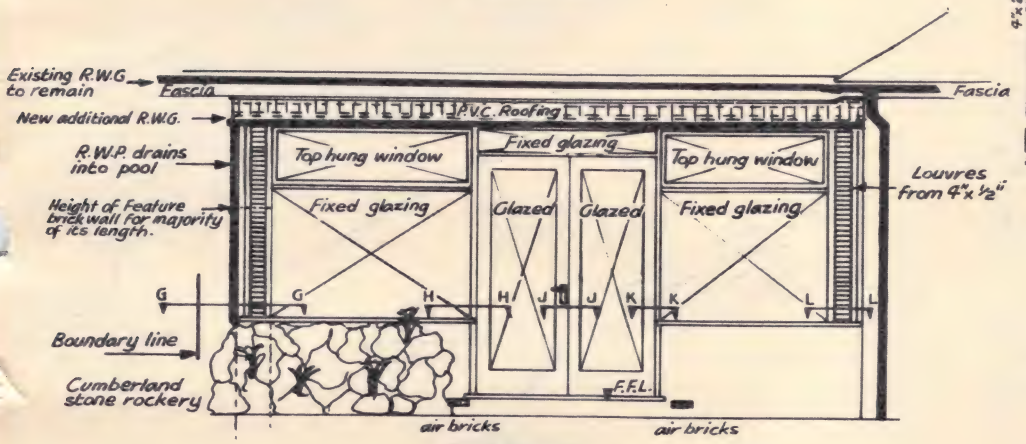
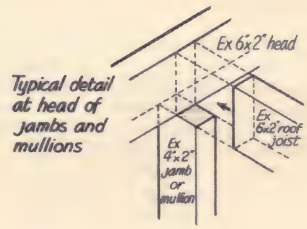
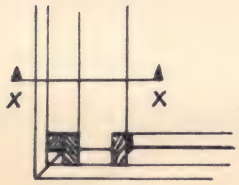


Arrangement of roof joists



Front Elevation





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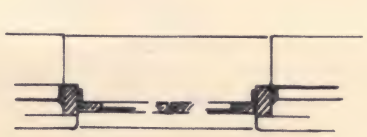

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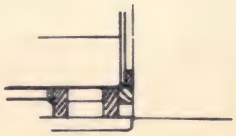

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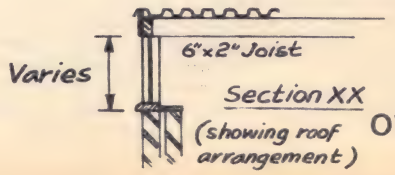
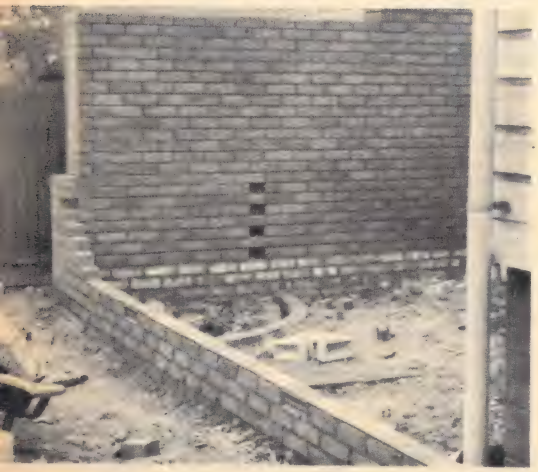


Section XX (showing roof arrangement)

OVER ▶

make a SPLASH with a SUN-ROOM



Brickwork in progress; note the toothing or indents in the side wall which will later take the curved wall round the pond

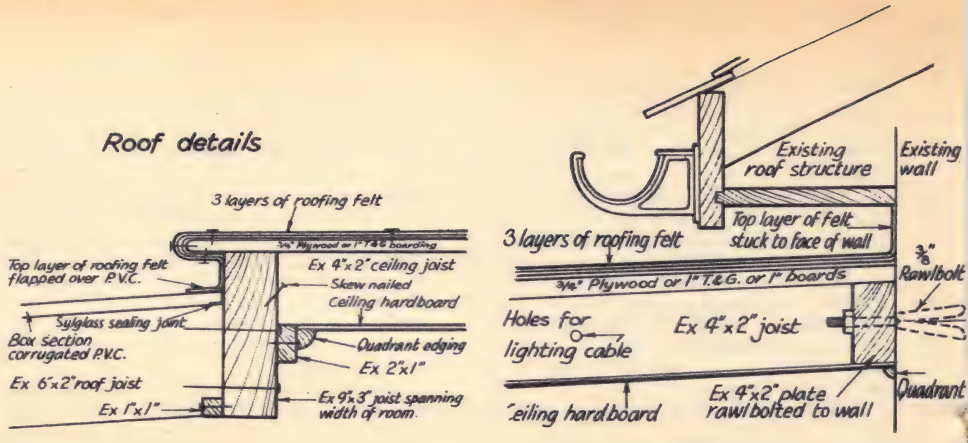
other brickwork, particularly emphasis being paid to the perpend joints, and the quality of the bricks used.

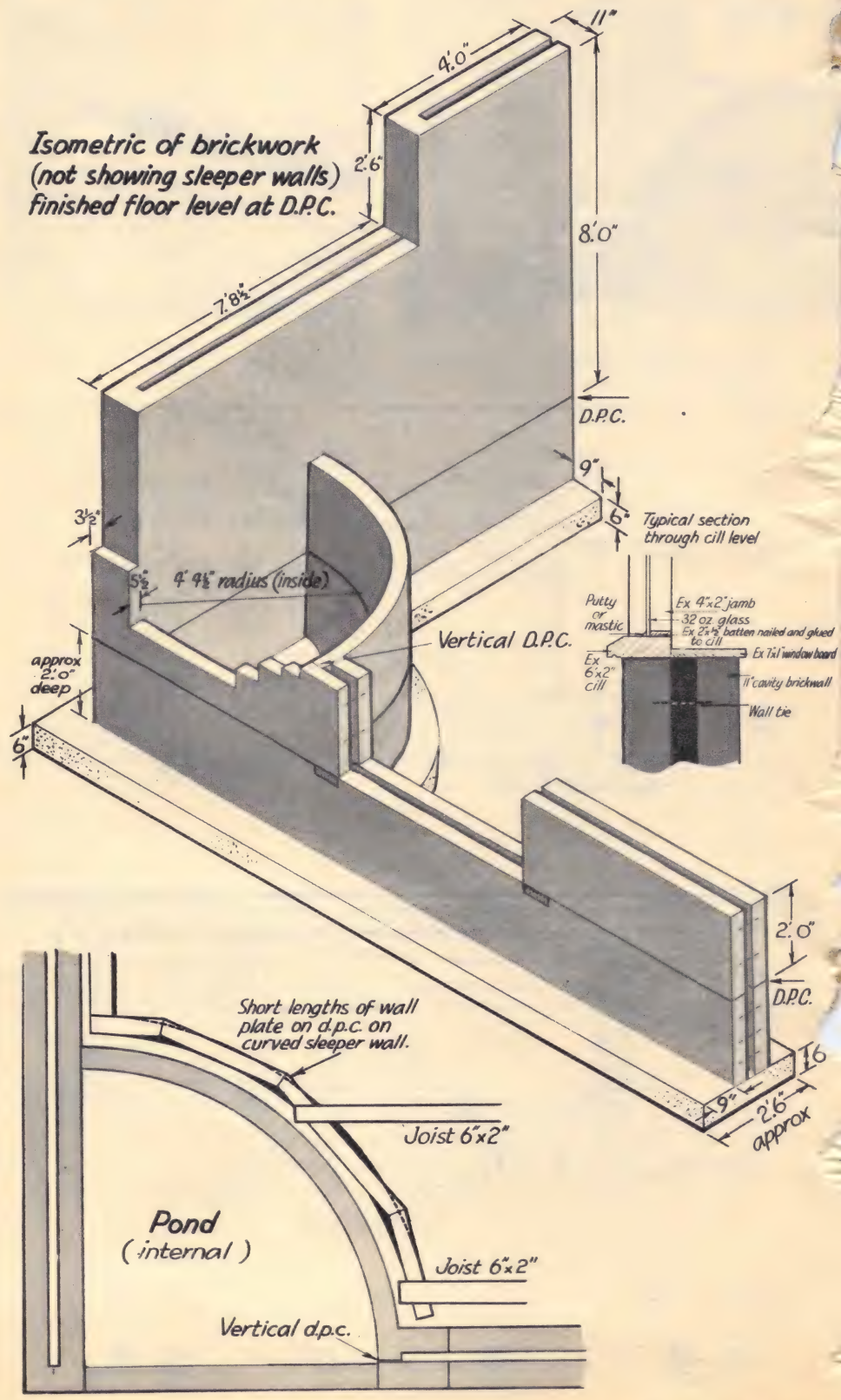
Hardwood fixing blocks should be inserted in the required positions whilst the brickwork is going forward as these save a lot of time and effort when it comes to fixing the cills, jambs and mullions. The blocks should however always be of dovetail section, so that they cannot pull out and fixed so that the screw it accommodates goes into the cross grain and not end grain.

The concrete oversite can be laid at any time after the brickwork has reached d.p.c. level. Its main purpose is to provide a waterproof (or rather water resistant) membrane beneath the suspended timber floor. Generally local authorities like the oversite to be no less than 4in. thick, laid on hardcore, and its level such that it will not be lower than the outside ground (to avoid flooding) and still provide at least a 3in. gap between itself and the underside of the floor joists. These last two criteria are usually quite difficult to achieve together, unless one has a large step down from the extension to the outside or an exceptionally shallow floor construction.

The sleeper walls to support the floor joists may be erected on top of the oversite unless the distance between the joist and oversite is very small (e.g. 3in.–6in). If this is the case then the sleeper walls could be laid on their own foundation and the oversite constructed up to them. The sleeper walls should be honeycombed—that is occasional bricks left out—to provide adequate passage of air. Having completed the sleeper walls it will probably be convenient then to bed the d.p.c. on top.

The above procedure regarding sleeper walls, oversites, etc. is of course only necessary if a timber floor is to be used. If however, a concrete floor is preferred this can be laid straight on to a hardcore base and should be at least 4in. thick. Here waterproofing is essential and can easily be provided by laying the concrete on a polythene sheet, or painting the upper surface of the concrete with a couple of coats of Synthaprufe, or both. Usually it is impractical to lay the concrete absolutely smooth and level so a sand and cement screed should be laid on top (the polythene sheet could then be laid between the concrete and the screed). The thickness of the screed should not be less than 1½in. thick, as thin screeds have a tendency to lift and crack.





Plan view of Pond

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

You could call it painting for kicks

When you've finished painting the door with Silexine's new Polyurethane paint, by all means stand back and admire the result, but remember one thing. You will still be admiring the result in two, three, four, five years' time. Even after the kids have done their best to kick it to pieces. Because we put extra urethane into our Polyurethane, to make it the toughest of all Polyurethanes, yet still at our famous competitive Silexine prices.

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Have you noticed how smart 'house and home' type magazines always show wall units with just a few designy ceramics and some chi chi bric-a-brac? Well we know and you know that life just isn't like that. A wall unit has to work hard for its living. And if it can't live with hot cups, careless cigarettes, wet glasses and scratchy ornaments, it won't keep its looks long.

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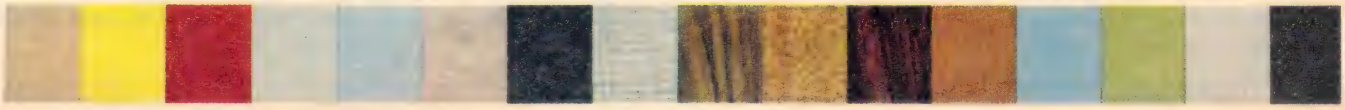
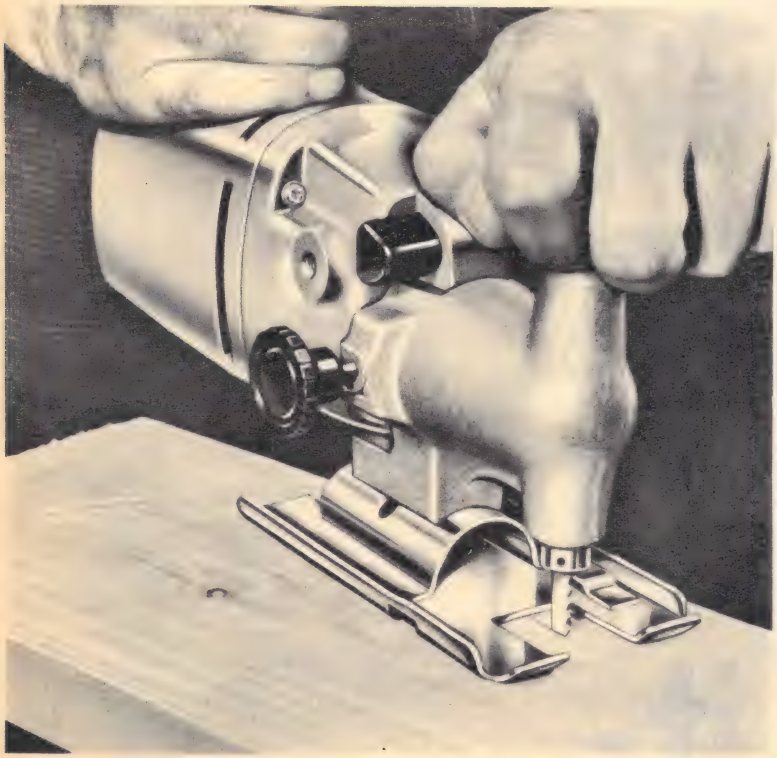


WCW/17

When it comes to a show of strength...



this Wolf jig saw makes other d·i·y jig saws look pretty amateur

Here is a really tough d.i.y. jig saw with stamina and performance equal to a 2-speed industrial duty model! And there's more where this came from. For this is just one of a whole new range of **big capacity Quickfix attachments** from Wolf. There's a 6" Saw, Saw Bench, Drill Press and plenty more!

All specially designed and precision built to make the most of the Sapphire 70's massive power.

And what power! Driven by the virtually indestructible world-proven Industrial Sapphire motor, the Sapphire 70 is more powerful, more versatile and more reliable than any other home power tool.

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*** 1/2" CHUCK**
the *biggest* in the home tool market!

*** 2 SPEEDS**
instantly changed at the touch of a button.

***ALL INSULATION**
a complete envelope of insulation. So safe you can use it anywhere from only a 2-core supply.

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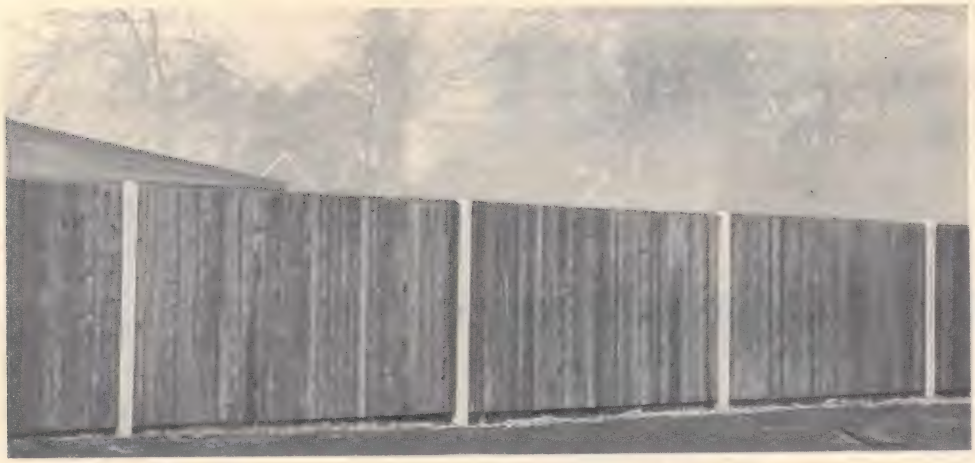
LOOKING AROUND

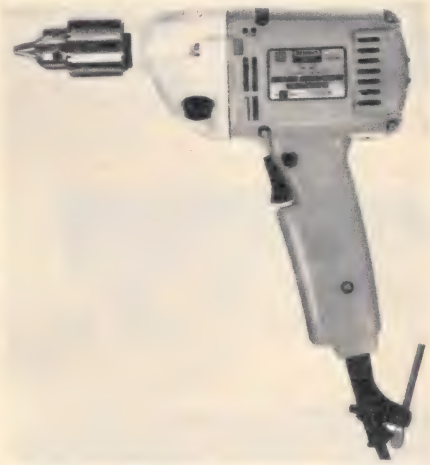
continued from page 551



CITY TIMBER fencing kits are supplied in a range to suit every pocket and every surrounding. They come to you with all timber cut to the exact length and accurately pre-machined for easy assembly to enable the amateur to achieve a professional finish with the minimum of effort. The kits are attractively styled and, in most cases, there is a choice of materials. Pergola kits in Western Red Cedar are also available with a 3ft. 6in. or 5ft. 4in. avenue between the posts. These can be made up to form straight, L shape, U shape, or rectangular avenues of any length. Full details of all these kits can be obtained from City Timber Ltd., Riverside Sawmills, Brasted, Westerham, Kent.

PORTA-SHOWER de-luxe portable shower unit is supplied complete with 8pt. combined water container and pressure pump in high impact polystyrene; 10ft. length of polythene tubing with heavy chromed brass spray nozzle; shower curtains in printed pvc with weighted base to maintain rigid sides—measures 2ft. square and is adjustable to any height up to 6ft. 6in.; foldaway heavy gauge pvc water tub; four cadmium plated steel brace rods and centre hub with integral support hooks; plastic soap and sponge rack; chromium plated clip for attaching nozzle to frame. Price, £7 16s. D.S.L. Sales, 47a Station Road, Redhill, Surrey.

TANGYE HYDRAFLAME blow torch has an 8oz. self-sealing butane aerosol, an adjustable jet flame spreader for paint scraping and a copper soldering bit and holder. The gas container is a disposable aerosol canister obtainable from most hardware shops. It will fit many continental makes of butane gas burning equipment. The torch is easily lit by applying a lighted taper or match to the nozzle and slowly opening the valve until the gas ignites. No pumping is required. Once warmed up, it can be used at any angle. The gas pressure automatically adjusts itself during use. Price, 59s. 3d.; aerosol replacement, 4s. 3d. Tangye-Shelley Ltd., Greet, Birmingham 11.



STANLEY-BRIDGES have two new drills, each with two-speed gear, ½in. chuck and ½ h.p. motor. Both models are supplied with a spare $\frac{5}{16}$in. chuck which enables them to be used with the full range of Stanley-Bridges attachments. The XK 360 at £13 19s. 6d. is a couple of ounces lighter than the XK 370 at £15 19s. 6d. The 370 has the added attraction of extra power plus an automatic overload cut-out. Both have the latest "glass-filled" nylon body, double insulation (plug in anywhere), welded commutator and ball bearing motor. Drilling capacity is ½in. in steel, ¾in. in masonry and 1¼in. in wood. Power tools for the practical householder have been steadily getting bigger and better. Stanley-Bridges Ltd., York Road, Battersea, London S.W.11.

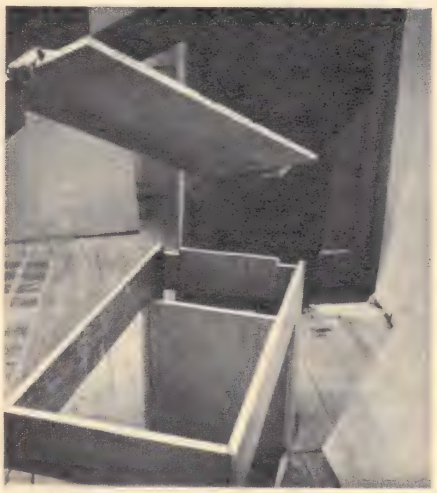
SEALION submersible pump works silently underwater and can supply simultaneously a spectacular fountain and an impressive waterfall cascade. In its fountain-only form as illustrated, the 85-hole jet produces a glittering chandelier of spray in a four-tier pattern 8ft. high and 7ft. in diameter. Highlands Water Gardens, Rickmansworth.

BANBURY SUNROOMS, a new range of home extensions, are available in six widths from 5ft. to 9ft. 9½in., from 5ft. long increasing on a 11½in. module to 26ft. 1in. and upwards, and in two heights—an over-all 8ft. 5in. or 7ft. 7in. at the house wall. Each Sunroom is supplied complete with Rockwall pressed concrete lower walls, softwood or cedarwood windows and double doors, a timber fascia and vinyl roofing sheets in yellow or natural. Each window has a top-opening fanlight. The double doors can be supplied in various positions along the frontage or in the end and solid walls at the ends in lieu of windows can be supplied giving the required fire resistance should an end be within 3ft. of a boundary. Free-standing Sunrooms are also available and can, if required, be supplied with windows all round or with a solid rear wall and/or solid ends. An insulated suspended ceiling is available as an extra. Illustrated is the Bahama No. 43, 9ft. 9½in. wide x 18ft. 5in. Price complete with internal wall lining, £177 15s. Home Extension Division, Banbury Buildings Ltd., Ironstone Works, Banbury, Oxon.

Another pair of HANDS

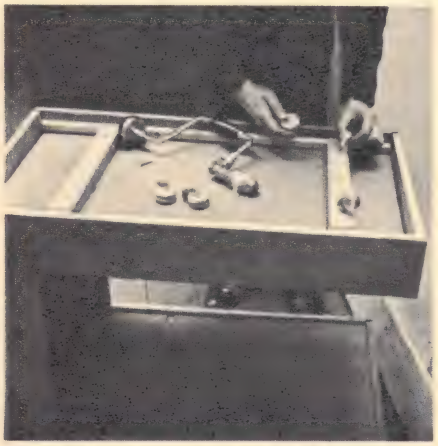
continued from page 553

12 The frame ready for the top shelf and mid-partition



13 Make both the trays a snug fit within the outer framework

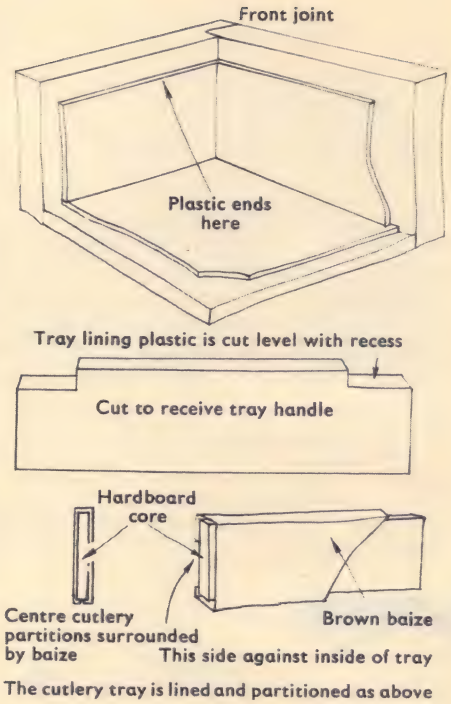
14 Alternative arrangement of cutlery holder now hidden beneath tray



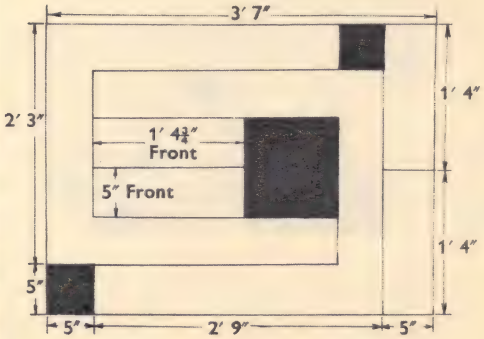
15 Fit the sleeves which hold the castors into the battens on the underside

16 Attach the tray handle with brass screws

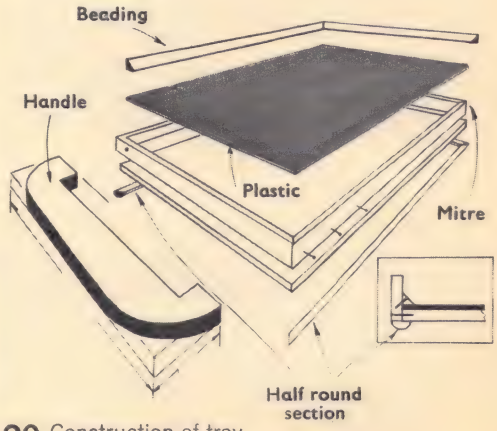
17 We positioned the cutlery holder at the end of the wagon



18 Construction of cutlery compartment



19 Cut out plan for carcase



20 Construction of tray

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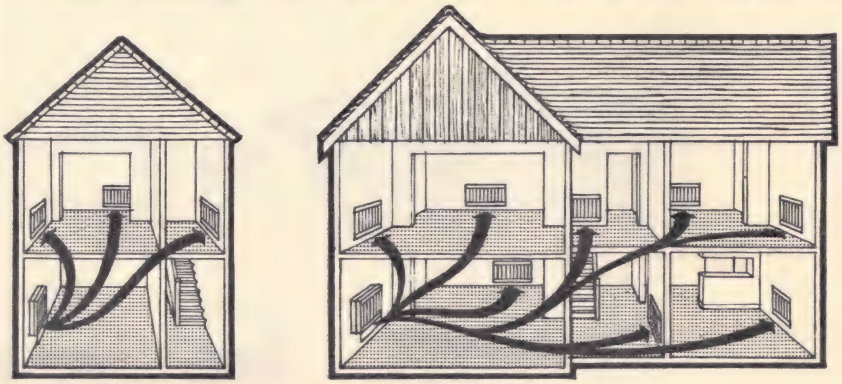

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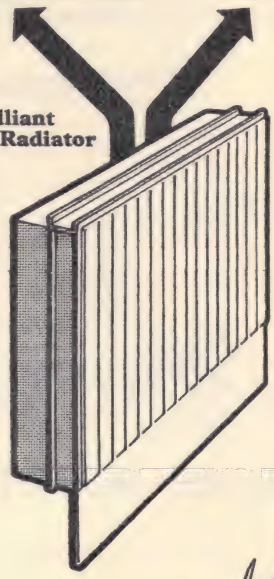

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When he leads you a dog's life

Don't snap. Snip!

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(Top) Use Fablon to face your kitchen walls. They'll be bright and always easily cleaned. Just cut to size, strip off backing, and stick down.
(Left) Give your door a bright new look with Fablon wood-grained facing. Paw marks wipe clean in a second. (So do children's fingerprints.)
(Right) Cupboard doors stay beautifully clean. And the bright Fablon patterns can do wonders for a kitchen. Cooking hours zip by in such cheery surroundings.

Snip snap, that's that with

Fablon

Be an EXPERT at SOLDERING

BY J. WHEELER

ANYONE can do soldering. The amount of "knack" required is very small and the equipment needed is simple and cheap. You can get a perfectly serviceable electric 15 or 20 watts soldering iron for 21s. or so and this, plus solder and flux and a little emery paper is all that is necessary for the majority of domestic jobs.

Solder works on a principle different from that of glues. The solder itself is an alloy of tin and lead. The "hard" solders contain more lead and so have a higher melting point. The soft or low melting point solders contain a bigger proportion of tin. There are also special mixes with additions of bismuth and cadmium which will melt at very low temperatures, some even lower than boiling water. Though these are useful for special jobs (such as filling thin-walled tubes before bending) they obviously wouldn't do for mending saucepans! If you just ask for soft solder, your ironmonger will probably sell you one containing 40-45 per cent tin, to 60-65 per cent lead. These are good general purpose solders and the most convenient for small jobs are the resin-cored grades. In these the solder is made as a very small diameter tube and the tube is filled with flux which automatically flows out as the solder melts. You can also get paste and paint solder, which are more convenient for jobs which involve "sweating"—for example applying heat to a pipe connection in plumbing work.

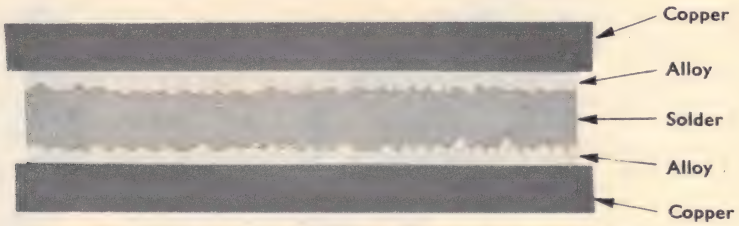
Soldering joins metals together because tin and lead when melted will form an alloy with most other metals, even with stainless steel—the awkward ones are cast iron and aluminium. Though these two can be soldered the technique is a dodgy one. Probably if it's only a simple job of leak stopping or a patch repair to either of these, then the use of synthetic resin putty such as Plastic Padding is the answer. But for copper, brass, zinc or sheet iron soldering is convenient and simple. All you need are clean surfaces, clean solder, flux and clean heat. The soldering "iron" (the bit is actually copper as most people know) is simply a convenient gadget for providing the heat and for carrying the solder to the point where it is needed. It is perfectly possible to solder without an iron, with the heat being provided by a blow lamp. This is the technique used for copper hot water piping made with the capillary joint method shown in one of the photographs. Actually, the pipe here is stainless steel which solders well provided you use a special flux.

Suppose you've bought yourself a nice new electric soldering iron the first step is to fit the plug to the end of the flex. If it's a 3-pin plug the right fuse is a 2 amp one. If you use a 2-pin plug or lampholder adaptor the earth connector (green wire) should be taped back. This done, switch on and very soon the bit will be hot enough to "tin." If you're using ordinary separate flux the iron should be hot enough to make the flux fizz slightly when you dip the tip of the bit in it to clean it. If you use the resin-cored solder, the solder should melt virtually as soon as it touches the bit. It will then form a bright silvery coating on the tip of the bit which is then "tinned" and ready for service.

If the bit won't take the solder, but lets it all run off, it is because it is dirty or greasy. A wipe with a rag and a quick light rub on a piece of emery cloth will put matters right. After considerable use the tinning will become oxidised and dirty, then you should make the iron hot, wipe the old tinning off with a folded rag, lightly emery the iron, dip in flux and re-tin as before.

For a first simple job, we suggest soldering one end of a length of wire or flex to a terminal tab. If you haven't a tab, you can join two lengths of wire. Remember, soldering is bound to work on any of the metals mentioned earlier, copper, brass, tinned iron or steel sheet or zinc, provided the conditions are right. If the solder won't flow, it is because the iron isn't hot enough; if it won't "take" to the metals you want to joint, it is because they are dirty or greasy. If the joints pull apart it's probably because you moved it before the solder had time to set. The remedies are all obvious. Solder

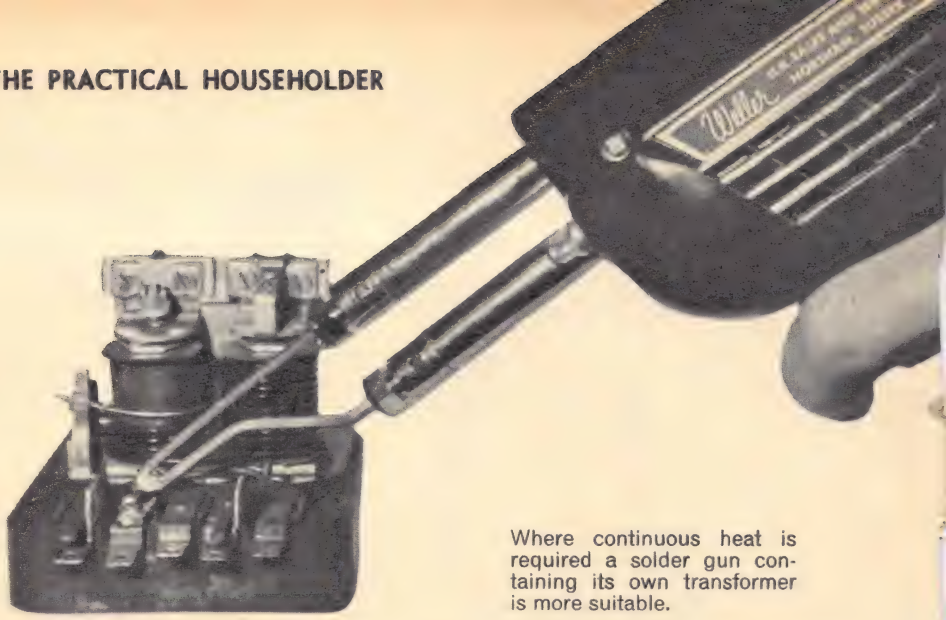
continued overleaf



Soldering works because the molten solder forms an alloy with the metal surface it touches and so fuses the two together. The thinner the layer of solder the stronger the join.

Multistrand flex prepared for soldering end. Outer cover is pulled back as far as possible and the wire strands separated and sandpapered. The strands are then neatly spiralled together and soldered. Make sure no whiskers project.

Single strand wire prepared for soldering to tab. If tab has a hole, end of wire may be hooked through hole to retain in position while soldering. Or wire may be bent as shown and slipped over tab.



Where continuous heat is required a solder gun containing its own transformer is more suitable.

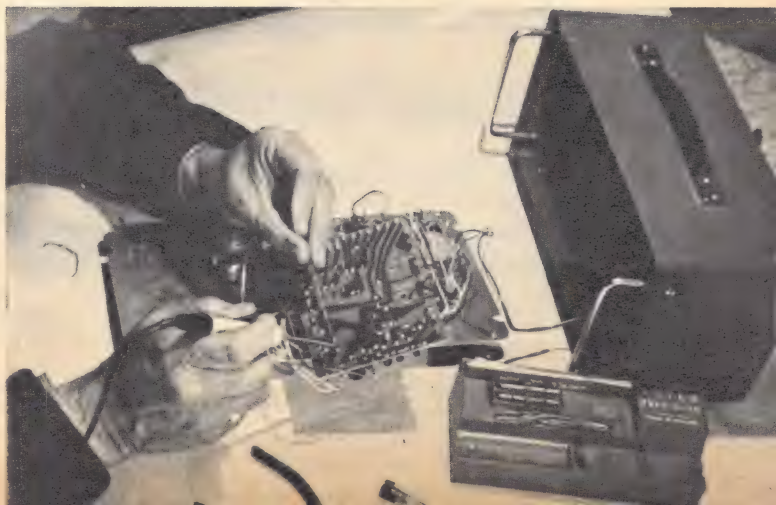
takes a few seconds to set hard. You can speed it up by blowing on the joint. Or, of course, arrange that the joint won't be under any strain, e.g., by hooking or twisting the wires round the component or clamping in snipe-nosed pliers when you can leave it a few seconds. Since the usual small electric soldering iron heats up very quickly, get the job ready for joining before you switch on. If you are doing several joints there should be a switch handy so you don't keep the iron on all the time.

Naturally, there's a limit to the amount of heat a small soldering iron will provide. For bigger jobs you need a bigger iron or transformer-type solder gun. For really big jobs, such as plumbing work you need either a blowlamp or a continuous gas heated iron, supplied from a bottled gas cylinder. The old fashioned solid iron is very good but can only be used within reach of a gas stove or primus stove. Among those shown here is the Weller solder gun—very useful for a wide range of jobs up to and including moderately heavy work. A typical 15 or 20 watt general purpose iron is a good buy for a beginner, but the Antex soldering instrument is ideal for delicate work—you hold it like a pen. A bottled gas iron is shown on the far right of our leading picture.

Once you've tried your hand at it, you'll find soldering an invaluable aid to lots of jobs around the home and on the car too. But, perhaps the greatest asset is that when you've learned how—and really it's very simple—it opens the door to such hobbies as building your own Hi Fi and radios, as well as plenty of other gadgets for which kits are available so that no electronics knowhow whatever is needed. Just the ability to read the instructions and solder neatly. The home of radio and Hi Fi kits is, of course, America. This is where it all started and there you can now even get kits to build your own colour TV for about £80. Over here it hasn't yet got to that stage, but you can get kits which put absolutely top-quality Hi Fi and radio in the ordinary man's reach. The top-quality kits aren't cheap—they can't be because the components are all best quality stuff—but compared with what it would cost you to buy equipment of the same high performance ready assembled, the saving is very considerable. The circuit designs are also fully up-to-date, but the need for knowhow is eliminated by the use of printed circuit boards on which the position of each component is clearly indicated.

Looking at the catalogue of kits offered by Electroniques of Harlow, Essex, who market here versions of the American Knight Kits specially adapted for English conditions, the choice ranges from complete receiver kits, tuners, amplifiers (up to 120 watts stereo) and communication receivers, to test instruments (including a super-sensitive exposure meter for camera enthusiasts) to electronic car engine tuners and stroboscopes. We timed the work involved in building two items—the timing light stroboscope and the auto engine analyser kit. The stroboscope was finished in one evening, the auto analyser took three. The prices for these (before devaluation) were £10 9s. 6d. and £24 2s. 8d. respectively. Also available for the advanced radio amateur or electronics student are modular test gear kits, signal generators and oscilloscopes. At the absolute beginners' end of the scale is a battery charger at 50s. and fundamental transistor experimental kits from about £9 10s. (again pre-devaluation). The work is simpler than the finished job suggests. This is due to the complete preparation of the kit as delivered; wires are cut to length and pre-tinned; components individually packed and labelled. Most kits have two manuals; one is a step by step illustrated guide to assembly, the other is an operational one on how to get the most out of it when you've built it. At a conservative guess, we'd say five minutes practice is all the time needed to learn how to solder with an electric iron or solder gun. From then on you simply follow the instructions and tick each step off on the job sheet as you do it.

"Sweating" or capillary soldering. The surfaces to be joined are coated with paste solder, assembled and then heated. These units are stainless steel.



For really fine work a "pen" type soldering iron like this Antex is ideal. The kit is the Knight car engine auto analyzer.

You want power? Extra power? Now you've got it!

Here's a completely new power tool from Stanley-Bridges . . . the new XK360. With a big, reliable ½ h.p. motor. With a precision-engineered ½" chuck. With an additional 5/16" chuck that takes the full range of attachments. With two speeds - 890 and 3000 r.p.m. With a twin-shell body in 'glass-filled' nylon - strongest of them all. With double insulation so that you can plug it in anywhere. And a full 12-months guarantee with no-holds-barred

It's got everything! The new 2-speed, ultra-powerful, double-insulated XK360. By Stanley-Bridges. £13.19.6.

✳There's only one power drill better than the XK360—that's the XK370. With even more power and with automatic overload cut out. £15.19.6.

Prices quoted are recommended retail prices only.

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1 Take one house,

2 Add a family,

3 Warm until content.

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Woodworking Simplified

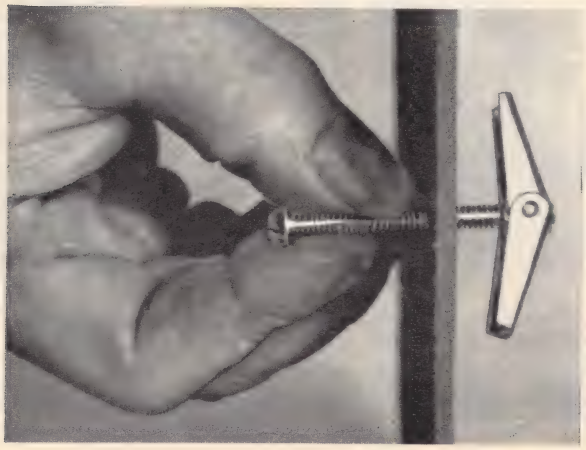
You may never know what's behind the plaster on your walls until you try to hang something on them. It could be tough, hard brick, or it could be just air! Whichever it is there's a suitable fixing and here we show typical ways of doing the job

by A. & P. OLDALE

75 Many walls and ceilings are very thin, only made of sheet boards or laths and plaster. For these, use special fittings such as this gravity-toggle. Push it into a drilled hole

76 Once through the hole the long tube falls and the screw can be drawn up tightly against the board

77 Another type, especially good for lath and plaster, is the spring-toggle. Push it through the hole



78 Once inside, the toggle springs apart and will spread a good way across the backs of the laths

79 Where fitments may need to be removed later (as with tenant's fixtures in rented houses), the Rawlbolt fitments are ideal. Bore a hole in the wall and push the bolt sleeve in

continued overleaf

80 Above: The screw can be removed and threaded through a fitting board before screwing it into the sleeve. Tightening the screw expands the sleeve and locks the whole very firmly indeed, yet the screw can be readily removed later if need arises

81 Very strong indeed, and suited to bear the heaviest weights, is the simple brick wall plug. First chisel out a slot in the mortar between suitably placed bricks (under plaster you will have to find the joints by trial and error)

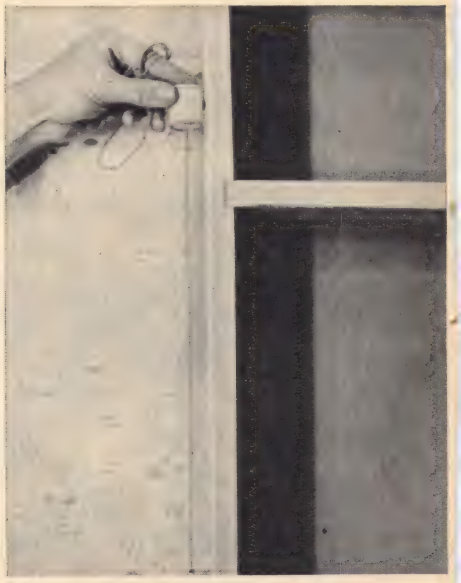
82 Cut a wedge of timber and press it tightly into the slot

83 Right: Hammer the wedge really well but not directly with the hammer head or the wood may split. Interpose a length of waste wood

84 Finally saw off any surplus till the plug is flush with the brick. Any kind of nails or screws can now be driven into it

85 Levelling calls for a spirit-level, the longer the better. Many have a cross-level in a window near one end. This is used to check for vertical, as here

86 Verticals can be checked fairly accurately with an improvised plumb bob. Wrap card round a knotted string and feed both through the hole in a cotton bobbin. Thread the string through a second bobbin (also card-wrapped to narrow its central hole)



87 Hold up the string near the frame. When both bobbins just touch the framing, it is vertical

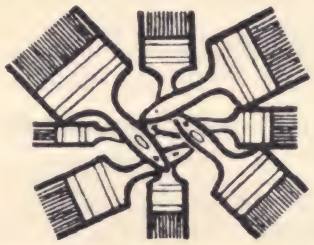
END

GETTING THINGS LEVEL AND VERTICAL

ADDIS brings you Tips from the Trade

no. 3 what size brush should I buy ?

1 To do a proper job on walls, doors, windows, you need a full set of new Addis paintbrushes.

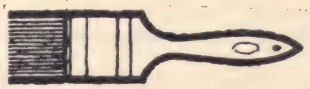


2

For walls use a 3" or 4" brush

3

For flush doors get a 2½" Addis



4 Skirting boards and wide door frames need a 1½" brush. Don't forget the little 1" Addis brush for narrower door frames and window frames.

5

Glazing bars on windows? Easy with a ½" brush –and your elbow steadied against the window.

6

Best tip of all: When you're saving perhaps £25 on a room by doing it yourself instead of employing a professional there's no point in saving a few bob on brushes.

7

Remember-Addis makes three ranges: The 'EVERYMAN' The 'CRAFTSMAN' and The 'SUPERMAN': Buy the best you can afford.

8

Results. Perfect.

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to 6 questions about double glazing:

1 How easy is it for the handyman to fix? Using the simplest methods, very easy indeed. Probably one of the easiest d–i–y jobs there is.
2 Is d–i–y double glazing efficient? Yes. Ask anybody who has done it about the difference it has made to the warmth and comfort in their homes.
3 How much does it cost? Prices vary according to the system used, but you can do effective double glazing for less than 5/- a square foot of window.
4 How long does it take to fit? The normal living room window can be double glazed quite easily in an afternoon.
5 What are the benefits? Two-fold. Double glazing gives your home modern standards of comfort. And it saves on your fuel bills . . . enough to recoup the money you've spent in a few years.
6 Where can one find the answers to all the other questions about double glazing? In a 16-page free guide to the choice of double glazing systems, their fixing and cost.
Just fill in the coupon for your copy.

To Pilkington Double Glazing (MDA), P.O. Box 8, Nottingham.
Please send free double glazing guide to:

Name _____

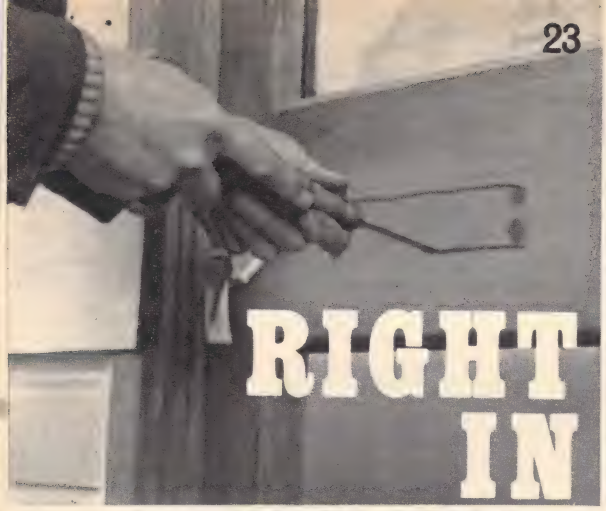
Address _____

_____

_____

_____

P.H.1



RIGHT IN FRONT

Continued from page 559

23 After marking off the letterbox opening—in line with the lockset—holes are made and a padsaw cuts out the oblong section

24 The opening is smoothed down with a rasp, the inner, lower edge sloping down, then the flap unit is bedded in mastic outside

25 To cover the asbestos-clad ceiling and wiring Celotex acoustic tiles were fitted to give a decorative and practical effect

26 The tiles are fixed with five dabs of Evo-Stik 'Impact' adhesive, working from the centre, cutting edges as required to fit

27 Glazing the door, with 32-oz. glass, fixing from the inside, after laying mastic in the rebates of the door, beads inside

28 Using Cuprinol Red Cedar preserver brings the door colour in line with the timber work and also protects against weathering

29 Now to start inner cladding: additional noggins are laid between the verticals, giving added support to ¼in. hardboard

30 Give the hardboard a good 24 hours soak before cutting to size: fix with galvanised nails at 4in. centres while dampish

31 When the hardboard is dry spread the Plycol Tilefix with the special notched tool which leaves serrations about ¼ in. deep.

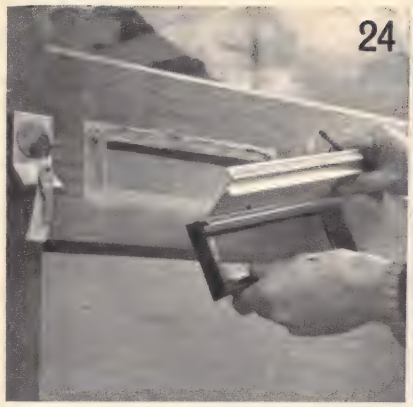
32 The newly-laid floor screed was perfect for this application—so tiles were bedded in Evo-Lay Floor Screeding Compound

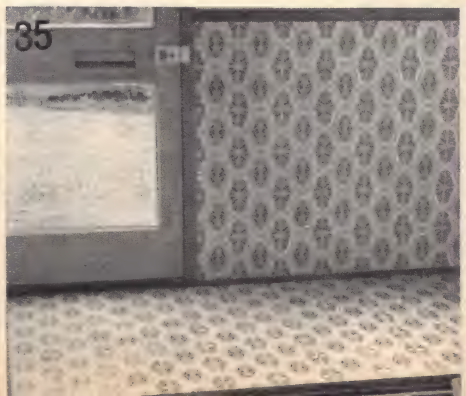
33 A Mason-Master tungsten-carbide tile cutter was most effective in scoring through the glaze, with the aid of a straightedge

34 The scored line is then centred on the edge of a level piece of wood or metal—and hand pressure makes a clean break-off

35 Overall effect of wall and floor surfaces of the porch from inside the house door. Ideally one should align both patterns

36 The Churchouse porch light, from their Bega range. A ceiling light sealed off from the wall with a waterproof mastic





DRY LINING OF WALLS AND CEILINGS

concluded from 567

14 Fixing window soffit pieces by direct bonding to plaster

15 Reinforcing an external angle with Gyproc Joint tape

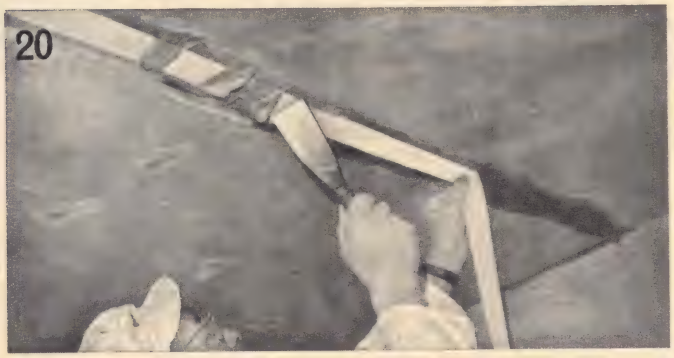
16 Fixing board under window. Note square-edge of board butts tapered edge of adjoining

17 Final strip going into angle

18 Applying finish

19 Final sponging

20 Bedding Joint tape in Gyproc Joint Filler on ceiling joint.



21 Feathering out edges of joint fillings. Note nail heads have been spotted

22 Sponging on slurry of Joint Finish

Thistlebond materials required for 100 sq. yd. of surface area.

Gyproc Tapered Edge Wallboard	100 sq. yd.
Thistlebond pads and nails	1 pack of 250 of each
Thistle Board Finish Plaster	9 cwt.
Gyproc Joint Tape	350-400ft.
Gyproc Joint Filler	35-40lb.
Gyproc Joint Finish	20-25lb.
Flex-corner Tape	depending on number of external angles
Gyproc Wallboard Primer	1 gallon

Magnify the comfort of your open fire to heat your whole home

Right at this moment you are burning nearly enough fuel on your open fire to heat your whole home! Solid fuel is *concentrated* warmth. PARKRAY helps you to get more out of it. PARKRAY puts your open fire behind glass: this makes it burn better, improves control, cuts down draughts, stops heat being swept up the chimney. You see your fire. And it's hot enough to make toast through the glass. To this radiant heat, PARKRAY adds convected warmth to heat big rooms comfortably. Behind it is a super-efficient back boiler which can heat up to 6 radiators and give you all the hot water you want. The warmth of a real living fire magnified to keep your whole home warm. That's PARKRAY. It makes good sense because it gets more out of the fuel you pay for. Parkray is quickly and easily installed. You can do it yourself, because it fits in most fireplaces without builders' alteration. There are plenty of Parkray Dealers who can supply you with complete packs of do-it-yourself fittings and who can give you any advice you need about the job. And if you don't want to tackle the installation yourself, your local Parkray installer is fully equipped to put your PARKRAY in for you quickly and economically. It's never too early to **live better and pay less with PARKRAY.**

Send in the coupon immediately. You can have your PARKRAY now—there's no deposit to pay and the terms spread over 5 years come to about 20/- to 25/- a week with the N.C.B. Housewarming Plan. And this applies whether you do it yourself or not.

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I want to get started on more heat at lower cost. Please tell me more about PARKRAY Living Fire CENTRAL HEATING.

I want to install PARKRAY myself and be put in touch with a specialist PARKRAY D.I.Y. dealer. ☐

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My house/flat has one/two/three four bedrooms.

My present heating is open fire/gas/electric bits and pieces.

(cross out whatever does not apply to you)

I have a special heating problem and enclose a letter.

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PH.1

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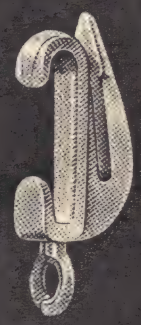

Something you get only with Drape no-pelmet curtain rail.
One-piece, snap-on glide hooks **specially** designed for no-pelmet curtains.
They keep the curtain tape level with the rail, and hold the heading upright without the need for special tape and hooks.
So when you're showing off your curtain heading, do it properly—with Drape, the perfect no-pelmet curtain rail.

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COPING WITH CONDENSATION—AND THOSE COOKING SMELLS!

by BRIAN HACK

When you've spent lots of time and money on decorations it's exasperating to see them getting stained and spoiled by condensation. You know the signs: moisture running down the walls, brown spots and marks appearing on the ceiling and paintwork and pools of water collecting on the windowsills. It's not only steam from cooking the vegetables which is the trouble, but worse, grease-laden smoke from frying and grilling which in time will completely discolour all the paintwork. One of the most effective ways of stopping condensation is with improved ventilation—you get plenty of other benefits, too. A cool, fresh atmosphere in the home and no cooking smells wandering all over the house or greeting callers at the front door with news of what you've had for dinner!

The completed installation—modern and unobtrusive.

HOW can you improve your ventilation so you have it under complete control? Simply by installing the right size of extractor fan in the right place. I made sure of keeping condensation in check and improving the atmosphere in my home by fitting an Xpelair. I chose it because its modern appearance appealed to me and the technical data seemed to add up to a really efficient and effective appliance. The Xpelair extractor fan is palest ivory in colour—a modern, slim, cir-square shape incorporating draught-proof shutters.

It blends perfectly with any modern decor. According to the technical details, a 6in. Xpelair extracts 10,000 cubic feet of air per hour from my 10ft. x 8ft. x 8ft kitchen—and it costs only £11.9.6.

The small booklet 'Clear the Air with Xpelair' answers all the questions which cannot be covered here, but important points to remember are:

(a) The fan must be fitted high up and as near as possible to the source of steam. Normally one would fit the extractor fan into a window but there is no objection to fixing it high into a wall. Details and diagrams are shown on page 12 of the booklet. (Don't forget hot air rises: so do your decoration costs!)

(b) The fan should not be installed near an ever-opening door as this would short circuit the air movement.

(c) Windows should not be left open immediately adjacent to the fan.

My first job after deciding to install the Xpelair into a window over the sink was to remove the glass and take it to the local glazier. He cut a neat 7¼in. hole near to the top while I waited. Unless you are a glazier this is not a do-it-yourself job! With a shillingsworth of putty the glass was soon replaced into the frame.

One pleasing thought; all I needed to install the Xpelair was a screwdriver.

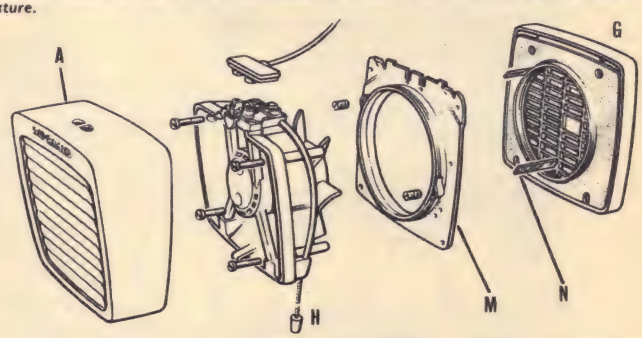
Holding the outer grille to the hole, I fixed it snugly to the inner plate with the ladder strips and the two worm screws. The fan unit was then screwed on to the inner clamp plate. Next, I ran a two core lead from the nearest supply point to the socket on the fan. You can use a two core flexible cable as the Xpelair fan is double insulated.

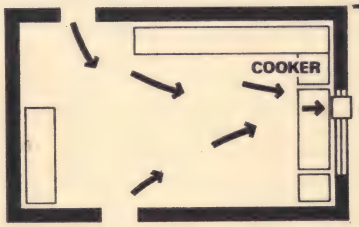
This is only a Saturday afternoon job. A pull of the cord, the shutters open automatically and the fan immediately goes into action.

The fan shutters need an occasional cleaning to rid them of collected grease and dirt. Still—better there than all over my decorations! And it *does* prove that the Xpelair is pulling its weight!

My installation was the simplest possible, of course—but the leaflet claims that double-glazing, sash windows and wall fixing are not much more trouble. *If you'd like a copy of the booklet write direct to Dept. P.H.4, Xpelair Ltd., P.O. Box 15, Colchester, Essex, or use the Practical Householder enquiry service coupon on page 640.*

EASILY INSTALLED. Fixing the Xpelair in a window required a circular hole cut in the glass. The outer grille G and inner clamp M were fixed each side of the hole by ladder strips N. The fan unit H was fixed to the inner clamp plate by screws. The cover A is held by press-button fixture.





The fan was fitted high above the sink unit and near the cooker, the chief sources of steam. There is no door nearby to 'short circuit' air movement and reduce efficiency.

LEGAL NOTES . . .

GETTING MONEY FOR VALUE

"I live in an area where about 180 houses are likely to come under a compulsory purchase order if a proposed link road is built. Is it worthwhile having my house valued now so that I would be in a position to question the valuation price offered me? I understand this would be the market value, but this term worries me as I believe there would be quite a difference between the market value and the price I could get on the open market."

The statutory regulations dealing with compulsory purchase state that when a house is subject to an order, its 'market value' is to be ascertained as though no such order existed. The idea is to see that the owner is fully compensated. You will get a "notice to treat" and you (or your valuer) will negotiate the price with the acquiring authority's valuer. If you cannot reach an agreement, the Lands Tribunal will settle the price to be paid.

A valuation now by an experienced valuer would, no doubt, be useful as evidence and its cost might be justified in some circumstances. Normally, however, it would make no difference.

YOU'RE NOT TO KNOW

Further to last month's item on the Occupier's Liability Act, 1957, a recent case (Cook v. Broderip and another, Queen's Bench, 1968) is worth noting. The act, as we've explained before, makes a householder liable for guarding anyone who's in his house with his permission from dangers he knew or should have known existed. It would be unfair, though, to make him shoulder responsibility for an injury due to someone else's negligence which he couldn't be expected to have been aware of. This case illustrates the point well.

The plaintiff while cleaning a flat was badly burned when she dusted an electric fire that seemed to be out. The injury resulted from the fact that an electrician, employed to put in a new switch fuse, hadn't tested for reversed polarity. Had he done so, the defect would have become apparent. Clearly, the electrician was liable in respect of his professional negligence, and the court awarded the plaintiff £3,081 compensation against him.

But the householder was held exempt from liability. He had the work done by an independent professional contractor, and was not obliged to insure his visitors against possible incompetence. The Judge's comment was: "It is not good law that a householder is not to install an electrical circuit, or a central heating system, without understanding the work of specialist contractors*. For he has no possible means of checking negligent work."

(*referring, of course, to those who *have* the work done rather than those who do it themselves.)

FAIR DUES

A houseowner wants to build an extension towards the street. His local authority has two ways to prevent him doing so. One way is to refuse the requisite planning permission, giving a reason for the refusal. The other way is, under the Highways Act, 1959, to prescribe what is called an "improvement line", whereby building on the street side of this line is prohibited. From the ratepayers' point of view the real difference between the two ways is that the second but not the first involves payment of compensation to the owner affected.

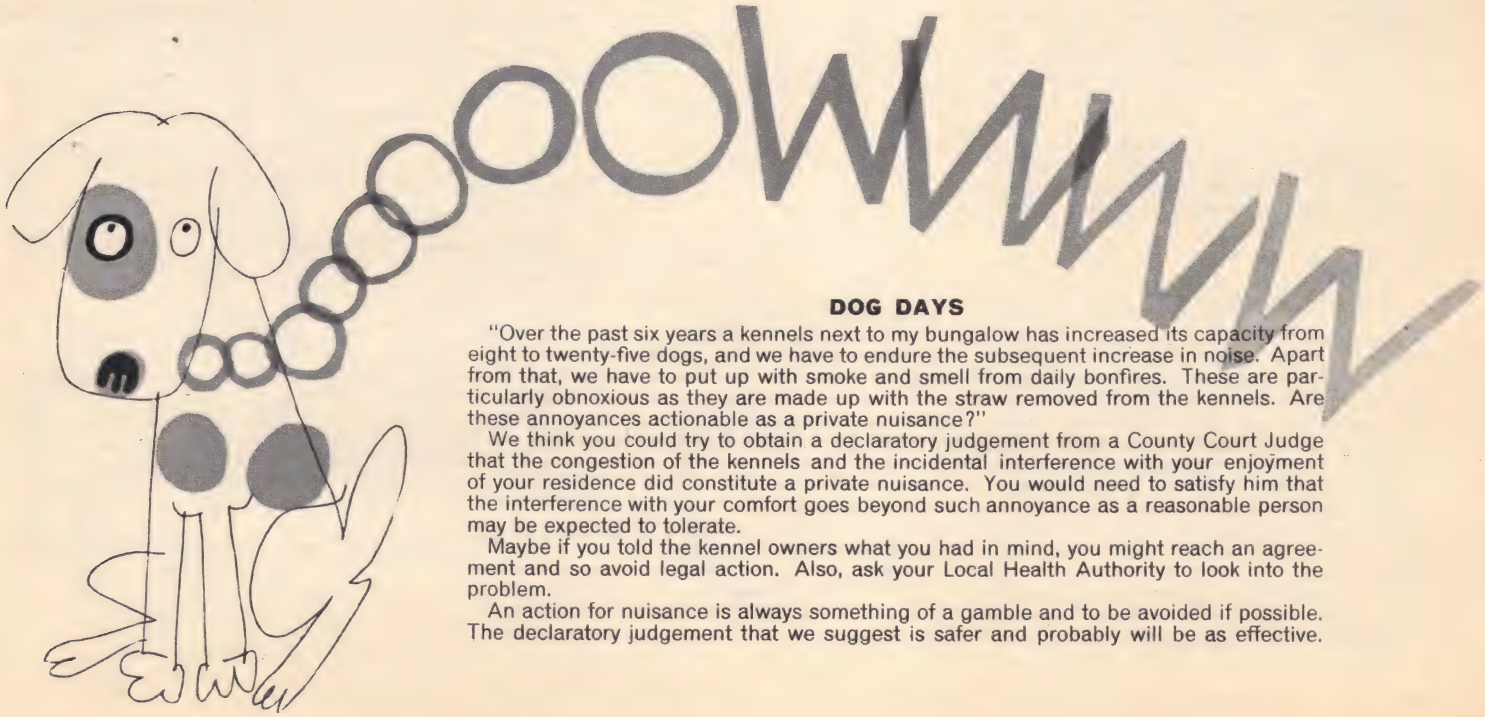
However, this interesting case—Westminster Bank Ltd. *v* Beverley Borough Council and Another, Queen's Bench, 1968—decided that, when the reason for refusing planning permission really amounts to an intention to prescribe an improvement line, compensation is payable. The "Another" in the case was the Minister of Housing: the Court quashed his decision approving the authority's refusal of permission, the reason given being "the proposed development might prejudice the possible future widening of Lairgate".

The Judge's comments were: "It is unreasonable to use planning powers to achieve the prescribing of an improvement line without paying compensation, since Parliament has expressly provided a procedure giving a right to compensation". He also said: "In a free society a reasonable man, faced with the need to restrict the freedom of the individual for the benefit of the community, and faced with two possible courses of action, only one of which involves compensation, must adopt that one". The case is a reiteration of the rule that Parliament has repeatedly stated (and one that crops up elsewhere on this page) that, though a citizen's property may be taken for public purposes, adequate compensation is payable to him.

DOUBLE TIME

"I have received a bill for work done on a circulating pump. The firm has charged me the electrician's time for cleaning and rewiring the pump. But they've also charged the same time for a plumber who was simply waiting around until the electrical work was finished so that he could come and fit the pump back into the heating system. This means I am expected to pay for both when only one could work on the pump at a time. The pump was taken to the firm's workshop for attention and the manager there says this is the usual thing for them to do. Can I be charged like this?"

Since the waiting time of the plumber could be (and probably was) spent doing other jobs in the workshop, it's quite unfair to charge you for it. Further, we think a County Court Judge would agree. We suggest you tell the manager that you will not pay for that time and that if he wishes to sue for his money, you will leave it to the Judge to decide. The likelihood is that he will seek some settlement with you.



DOG DAYS

"Over the past six years a kennels next to my bungalow has increased its capacity from eight to twenty-five dogs, and we have to endure the subsequent increase in noise. Apart from that, we have to put up with smoke and smell from daily bonfires. These are particularly obnoxious as they are made up with the straw removed from the kennels. Are these annoyances actionable as a private nuisance?"

We think you could try to obtain a declaratory judgement from a County Court Judge that the congestion of the kennels and the incidental interference with your enjoyment of your residence did constitute a private nuisance. You would need to satisfy him that the interference with your comfort goes beyond such annoyance as a reasonable person may be expected to tolerate.

Maybe if you told the kennel owners what you had in mind, you might reach an agreement and so avoid legal action. Also, ask your Local Health Authority to look into the problem.

An action for nuisance is always something of a gamble and to be avoided if possible. The declaratory judgement that we suggest is safer and probably will be as effective.

BY ERIC D. MINETT

SPACE SAVING HALL UNIT

WHAT can we put in the hall?—a familiar question because modern halls are difficult to furnish well. Of course, you can buy 'hall furniture'—monks' chests (delightful in the right setting), umbrella stands (often more of an obstruction than a convenience) and telephone tables. Unfortunately, many halls are too cramped to take even these items, and that's where this wall unit comes in. It provides plenty of storage space and gives the hall a homely, welcoming appearance whilst projecting only 9in. from the wall. It is ideal for books, of course, but also takes potted plants, ornaments, telephone, directories, letter-racks, etc.

DESIGN

Basically, the unit consists of shelves with sides, but to add balance and avoid the monotony of just shelves, a large compartment is left just above centre, and to further add contrast this compartment is backed. The remaining shelves are backless, although the top and bottom compartments have half-backs to protect books and facilitate fixing.

Again to avoid monotony, shelf depths vary slightly too. Below the centre compartment, another compartment utilises one half of the shelf width and has a door; this compartment is designed to house directories, jotters, letters, etc. This shelf has the greatest depth (apart from the centre one), and the door reduces the amount of wall exposed, which would otherwise be rather overpower-

Continued on page 597

Fig. 1

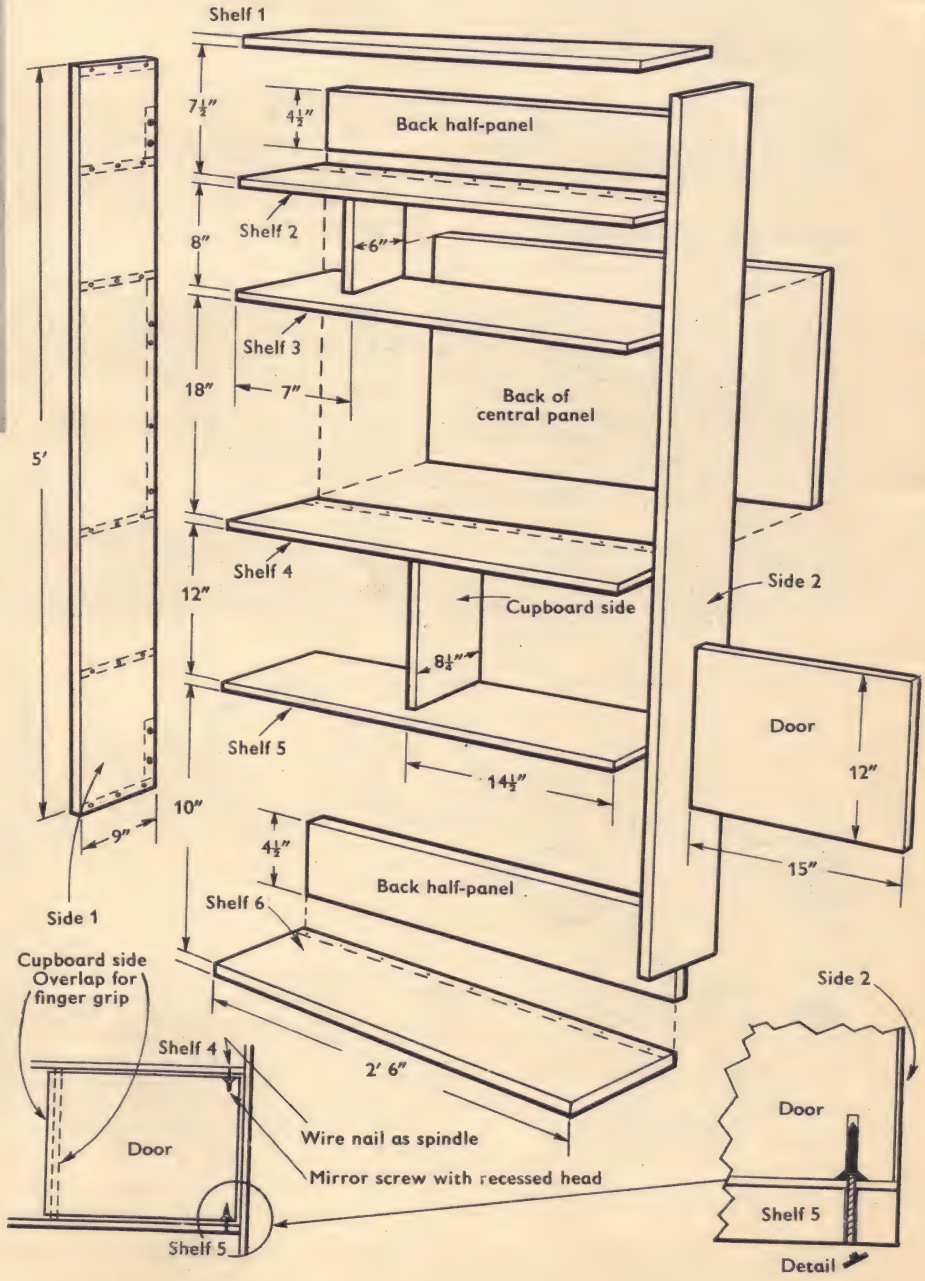


Fig. 2

Fig. 2 detail

Hole in one

(fill it and forget it!)

ICI have made it easier and quicker to 'make good', with 'Dulite'. This filler is so fine, it's easy to mix and smooth to spread. If you've got a hole or a crack to fill, fill it with 'Dulite'. And forget it.

From now on, the best filler is called 'Dulite'.

For best decorating results use DULITE Wallpaper Adhesive, Vinyl Adhesive, Paint Brush Cleaner and Renovator, Paint Stripper and Wallpaper Stripper.

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You'll be proud to say "We did it ourselves!"

For decorating advice and how to use 'Dulite' products, get the new free ICI Booklet: "A Mood for every Room". Available from your local retailer.

Pleased with myself?

of course I am!

just fitted my own Central Heating and saved money, with the help of

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CENTRAL HEATING KITS

Take my tip:-
Save money and time. Domestic Installations know all about Domestic Central Heating. They should do! **They've been installing it for over 20 years — use their experience.** For the cost of a 3d stamp you can get the **real** experts to advise you and it's free! A scheme is designed to your home and your home only.

NOW! . . . . up to **10 YEAR LOAN PLAN** available (no deposit)

Post this coupon to Don Brown DOMESTIC INSTALLATION CO. LTD. 74 Earls Court Road, London, W.8. He'll see that you get a copy of the latest brochure.

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PH 6/68

Got a garden path you're ashamed of?

no need to dig it all up and relay it - simply fill in the holes. Level off the bumps and

roll out the pavex

Simply prepare the base as instructions and unroll your PAVEX onto it.

PAVEX is supplied in standard rolls 15 ft and 30 ft long by 3 ft wide for as little as 7/4 per sq yd (special sizes on application).

PAVEX comes in six attractive finishes:— Black, Black & White, Red, Green, Heather speckle and Silentred Cork.

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pavex

Temple Pavex, Passfield, Nr. Liphook, Hampshire.
(PROPRIETORS: TEMPLE TUBES LTD)

FREE BROCHURE To Temple Pavex, Temple Mill, Passfield, Nr. Liphook, Hants.
Please send me FREE brochure

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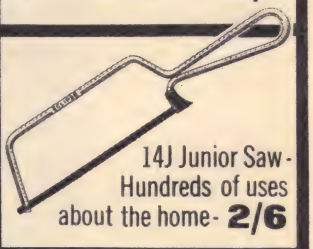
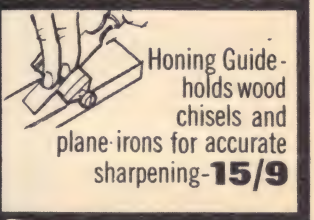
PH.2

20T Hacksaw - famous the world over - **18/6**



14J Junior Saw - Hundreds of uses about the home - **2/6**



Honing Guide - holds wood chisels and plane irons for accurate sharpening - **15/9**

Eclipse

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SSA.82 (a)

SPACE SAVING HALL UNIT

ing. To balance this shelf, the one above the centre compartment has a spacer, well left of centre, but extending only part way to the front of the shelf.

MATERIAL AND PREPARATION

I used veneered chipboard, partly because I find it polishes so well, but mainly because I was in a hurry. Thus, the dimensions are in accord with standard sizes of chipboard or blockboard, though, of course, any suitable wood can be used. Fig. 3 shows amount of chipboard needed, and also shows how to avoid wastage, as veneered chipboard is rather expensive material. (You should also ensure, before taking delivery, that the shades do not vary unduly; otherwise the final appearance will be spoilt.) Multiple dowel joints are used throughout; for this reason the order in which the parts are assembled is of great importance, and the whole unit should be assembled dry first to avoid errors.

The framework of sides, top, bottom, and the four intermediate shelves is prepared first. Examine each piece carefully, choosing the best veneered edge to be the visible one. The two sides should then be marked with the shelf positions. To ensure accuracy, this is done by placing both sides together, inside faces uppermost, and marking the positions right across both pieces.

The positions of the holes to receive the dowels should then be marked, at 2in. centres as in Fig. 1, and drilled to a depth of ½in. with a ¼in. diameter drill. This is, perhaps, the most difficult part of the whole operation, as it is important that the hole should be drilled at an angle of 90 deg. to ensure correct fitting of the dowel. If you have a dowelling jig the job is made much easier, as it can be seated on a piece of wood, previously drilled in the correct positions, clamped to the board. Otherwise, if a drill stand is not available, it's a job for a very steady hand. I did the job by hand, with a power drill, and the results were very satisfactory. The slight discrepancies made seemed to make very little difference. Do check frequently, however, to make sure you don't drill right through the board!

The next stage is to drill the butt ends of the horizontal shelves and the top and bottom, again to a depth of ½in.; the positions of the holes are obviously of the greatest importance here. I suggest the preparation of a card template, for each end. Don't assume that the holes will be in the same position on each butt end, as, especially if drilling by hand, slight but significant discrepancies in positioning cannot be avoided. Thus, twelve templates will be needed, but the little time spent on them is well worthwhile, as the slightest forward projection of one of the pieces at the joint will look unsightly and will always be a source of irritation.

MAKE A DRY RUN

The whole main framework having been prepared, it's vital at this stage to make a dry assembly in order to ensure exact cutting and fitting of the centre compartment back panel and of the shelf backs. The dowels for the joints should be cut slightly shorter than the depths of the two holes combined and should be grooved from top to bottom to permit excess glue to escape when the unit is finally glued up. You will find it best to insert the dowels in the butt ends of the shelves first, and then gently tap the side on to the dowels (using a piece of wood to protect the veneered faces when using the mallet). Don't tap too hard, or the dowels will split or otherwise cause damage.

Now, the centre compartment back panel can be prepared. The panel fits inside the framework, so as to be flush with the edges of the sides and shelves. The inside measurement of the back of the centre compartment should be taken first. There may well have been errors in the measuring, drilling and assembling so far, although if care has been taken, they should be minimal. Before measuring, check that the unit has been assembled square, using a tri-square or a piece of cord stretched across the unit from opposite corners.

This done, any necessary trimming of the back panel should be carried out, and then this piece in turn must be prepared for dowelling. All four edges must be drilled, to the same depth as before, but 6in. centres will be sufficient, as the panel takes very little strain. This means 5 holes along the top and bottom edges, and 3 holes along each side edge. Once again, it is advisable to prepare card templates to ensure correct alignment when drilling the rear underside of shelf 3, the rear topside of shelf 4, and the insides of the sides between the two (as in Fig. 1). Having inserted the dowels, the panel should now be included in the 'dry run'.

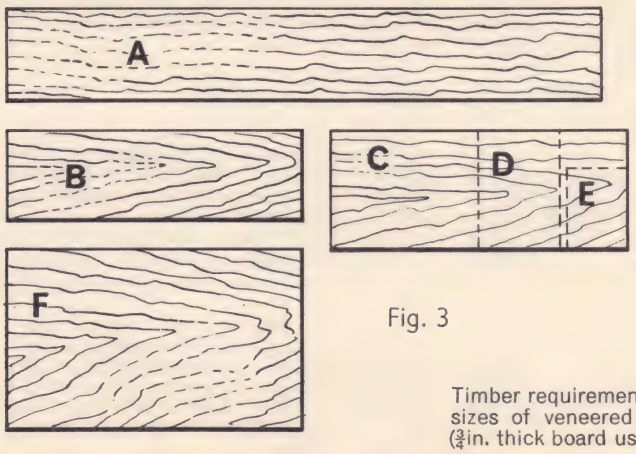


Fig. 3

CUTTING
A sides (2) 9in. × 5ft.
B shelves (7) 9in. × 2ft. 6in. (one halved lengthways for back half-panels)
C door 12in. × 15in.
D cupboard side 12in. × 8¼in.
E spacer 6in. × 8in.
F centre compartment back panel 18in. × 2ft. 6in.
NOTE: C, D, E can be cut from one 12in. × 2ft. 6in. piece

Timber requirements, applicable for standard sizes of veneered chipboard or blockboard (¾in. thick board used here)

ASSEMBLY

The order of assembly of the various parts may give a little difficulty, more especially in the final glueing. At this stage, it's a good idea if side 1 and shelf 3 are removed, the panel joined to side 2 and shelf 4, shelf 3 replaced, and then side 1.

A similar procedure will enable the inclusion of the half-backs to shelves 2 and 6 in the 'dry run'. These half-backs are made by dividing horizontally a 9in. × 30in. board, drilling at 6in. centres along the bottom edge (4 holes) and 4in. centres at each end (2 holes), dowelling and assembling in the same way. The 6in. deep spacer between shelves 2 and 3 can then be included (2 dowels on top and bottom edges at 4in. centres) flush with the rear edges of the shelves.

Finally, the side of the cupboard can be introduced; this is 8¼in. deep, to allow for the overlap of the door, and the front edge is best covered with veneer strip. This piece, too, is fixed so that its rear edge is flush with the rear edges of shelves 4 and 5. Two dowels at 4in. centres on top and bottom edges should suffice.

GLUEING UP

A good strong wood glue should be used, as the dowel joints will take nearly all of the weight. Assemble in this order: glue spacer to underside of shelf 2, then add shelf 3. Then, in order, back panel of centre compartment, shelf 4, cupboard side, shelf 5; glue half-back to shelf 2; glue half-back to shelf 6; glue side 1 to shelves 2, 3, 4, 5; glue shelf 6 to side 1; glue shelf 1 (top) to side 1, glue side 2. Clamps, or the use of a rope round the whole framework, with cardboard to protect the corners, and tightened, must be used to hold the unit firmly together while the glue dries.

FITTING THE DOOR

Once the glue has dried (and it is as well to allow more than the usual time as it will take longer to dry inside the dowel holes), the door can be added. This fits so that its front is flush with the outer edges of shelves 4 and 5, and its inner side rests against the edge of the cupboard side so that an overlap of about ½in. is achieved to act as a finger grip for opening.

Obviously, the sawn edge will be the hinged edge, although the end should be covered with veneer strip. The door has very little weight, so I devised a simple but effective system of invisible hinges as I felt that traditional hinges would spoil the overall appearance. First, the door is held firmly in position and a small hole drilled through the front top of shelf 4 into the top edge of the door about ¾in. from the side (Fig. 2.) A similar hole is drilled ¾in. from the side in the front underside of shelf 5 and into the bottom edge of the door.

The door is then removed, and a mirror screw, with its polished head detached, is driven into each of the holes in the door edges so as to be flush with, or slightly deeper than, the edges. The door is then replaced, and a nail driven through the hole in the underside of shelf 5 so as to enter the recess in the mirror screw. The head of the nail is then sawn off flush with the surface. The operation is repeated for the top of the door, but saw off the head flush before the nail is driven completely home so that the hole can be filled with plastic wood and smoothed off.

The final job is to polish the unit (I did mine with a proprietary polish and sealed it with polyurethane) and then fixed it to the wall on battens screwed through the half-backs to shelves 2 and 6, where the screw heads can be concealed with books or ornaments.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We pay a guinea for the most interesting letter published each month

QUESTION AND SUGGESTION

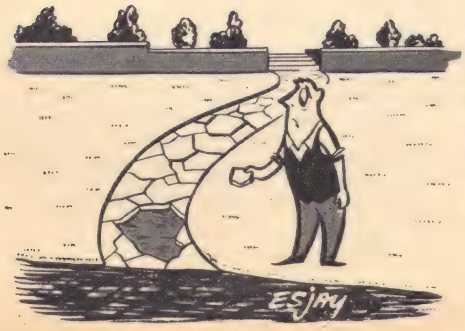
I was extremely interested in the article on page 168 of the March issue of PRACTICAL HOUSEHOLDER on using slotted angle for domestic scaffolding—it is, indeed, far cheaper than any existing idea yet offered to D.I.Y. enthusiasts. I would like to know if there is any reason for not using this form of scaffolding for use in decorating the complete outside of my house—which has a few awkward spots inaccessible by ladders—by forming a complete freestanding working platform? Would it be best to make feet for the base?

I could not help smiling when reading two or three months ago a way in which another D.I.Y. enthusiast had laid cable beneath his floorboards without lifting too many boards. I, too, had this problem last year. I lifted two boards only—one at each end of a secondary corridor on the first floor—tied a piece of string tightly to one of the children's rubber balls, tied the second end of the string to the end of the cable and threw the ball beneath the floorboards to my son waiting at the other end of the corridor, who then pulled the string and cable through. This saved quite considerable time in a most awkward spot and my son was, of course, highly delighted at the whole affair.—**A. J. Webb** (Sanderstead).

(Provided the design is right we see no reason why slotted angle should not be used for outdoor scaffolding. We suggest you write to Erecto, Newport Road, Hayes, Middlesex, for further information.—Ed.)

SHADE RING REMOVER

The difficulty of sticking shade rings will not be resolved by fiddling around with the bakelite locking ring. This should be scrapped and replaced by a metal shade retainer which can be purchased from Baker & Finnemore Ltd., Bafkin Works, Newhall Street, Birmingham 3 (cost six for 3s. 6d.). I can assure you that these are the ultimate in simplicity and effectiveness. In my dining room I have a five-pendant lamp arrangement, the shades of which can now be removed in as many seconds.—**H. W. Johnson** (Salford).



DO-IT-YOURSELF WALLPAPER

To give an air of individuality to my workroom I designed and painted my own wallpaper, playing on the name of our cottage which was a pub, The Royal Oak, 60 years ago. On lengths of paper, the height from wainscot to ceiling of my "den", I drew and repeated a simple pattern of enormous oak leaves, acorns and local wild flowers, and hung the paper, its pencilled design unpainted, on one wall opposite a window. Then I applied the colour, orange and brown oak, blue periwinkles, yellow dandelions and red toadstools, on a background of pale grey. The medium used for my mural was student's poster colour which gives a good flat surface.

With the three other walls and paintwork of the room in deep yellow, the whole is very effective and the cost—just a few shillings and some very happy hours.—**Mrs. M. Baker** (Chelmsford).

STORING PRACTICAL HOUSEHOLDER

Appreciating being able to refer to back numbers of PRACTICAL HOUSEHOLDER on many occasions for information and instruction, leads me to wonder how many readers have sold or given away copies only to wish, at some later date, that they had retained them.

I imagine the one reason for parting with them is because of lack of space for storing. This being so, it is possible a system I have adopted may be of interest to other readers.

In an indexed book I enter particulars of articles which I think may prove useful at a later date—

Subject	*Date of Publication*	*Page No.*
Roof Rafter Repairs	February 1965	65

As and when time permits, I check some of the back numbers and remove those pages which I decide I shall not require. This reduces the size of the book giving more space. When fitting a new ring circuit recently, my "index" proved very useful by informing me of five articles on the subject to which I could refer.—**C. A. Booty** (Nottingham).

WOODWORKING SIMPLIFIED

With regard to your article in February. As a professional carpenter and joiner of over 50 years' standing, I would like to point out that the square being used in the picture is a try square not a set square. Also, when cutting the shoulder of the half-lapped joint, the tenon joint is cut after the down cut. The reason—if the down cuts are done first little harm is done if it is cut past the shoulder line, but if the shoulder cut is done first and the cut goes past the down cut marking, it would greatly weaken the joint and, in some cases break right through.—**F. E. Matthews** (Uxbridge).

SATISFACTORY RESULT

May I refer to your letter regarding our drains problem. I duly wrote to the Town Clerk along the lines suggested and after much chasing was put in touch with the Parks Department's insurers, as apparently the park's tree was responsible.

Again, after refusing to accept their "No" and arguing my case, they have paid-up in full. It therefore only remains for me to thank you for your valued assistance.—**R. W. Ammonds** (Birmingham).

(The roots of a nearby tree broke into the sewer on Mr. Ammonds' land causing it to collapse. See Tree Blocks Sewer, page 1399 January issue.—Ed.)

CAN YOU HELP?

The Save the Children branch in this district badly needs collecting boxes of novel design to attract children's pennies to their cause. Would any of your readers be prepared to make one from their scraps of wood and post it to us? Boxes with parts activated by the coins would be especially well received. They must, of course, have an "emptying" hole.

As many of your readers will already know, this charity cares for children regardless of colour, religion or nationality and is especially busy at this time in Vietnam, Israel, Jordan and Sicily.—**Mrs. J. Lloyd,** Vice Chairman, S.C.F., Fareham Branch, 26 East Street, Fareham, Hants.

YOUNG IDEA

I have written this letter to say how good your magazine is. I am only 12 years old and some people say the magazine is too advanced for me. I have converted our cellar into a workshop so I find the part on woodworking interesting. If I should win the guinea, I would spend it on new tools.—**R. M. Coaton** (Stockport).

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May we remind readers that to make sure of obtaining their copy of PRACTICAL HOUSEHOLDER regularly every month they should place an order with their newsagent. The order form below can be used for this purpose.

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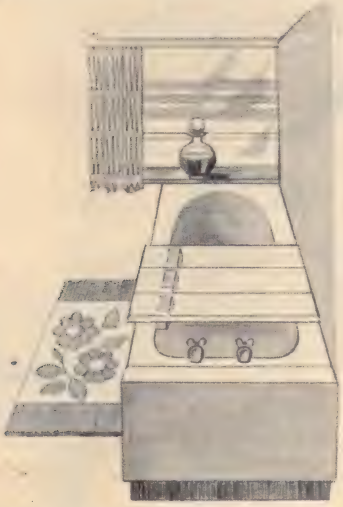
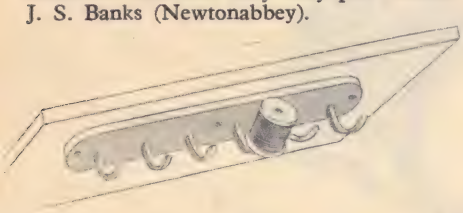
BATH PLATFORM

Finding it difficult to erect a ladder when decorating the bathroom, I decided to cover in the bath as this would allow me freedom of movement when painting the ceiling and walls. This was not a difficult job, the only material needed being some pieces of plank boarding which I bought from a demolition yard for a few shillings. The distance from the wall to 1in. beyond the bath was 28in. so I cut six boards 28in. × 9in. × ¾in. The next step was to screw a thick batten, say 6in. × 1½in. × ¾in. under each plank at a point where it would rest against the inside edge of the bath when the other end was flush against the wall, thus making it impossible for the planks to slide off the bath, yet quite easy to dismantle. Some baths have a slight narrowing at one end and this can be allowed for when fixing the battens. The sketch showing three boards only is self-explanatory.—F. Stillman (Lancing).



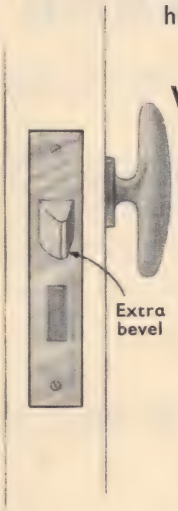
COTTON REEL HOLDER

I do a fair amount of needlework and always have at least a dozen reels of cotton in stock. I solved the problem of storing them by buying three kitchen tool racks (2s. each with screws) which I fixed under shelves in a cupboard. The prongs are just the width of a cotton reel and now I can see the different colours at once. Each rack holds six reels and they 'stay put".—Mrs. J. S. Banks (Newtonabbey).



VINYL SKIRTING

Having a very narrow hall where the skirting was constantly being knocked and redecorated I hit upon the idea of cutting strips of vinyl flooring the exact width of the skirting and glueing this on firmly. Result—no more chipped paint. It is also washed more easily than paint.—Mrs. K. Larkin (London).



WORN DOOR CATCH

If a door when shut does not remain closed, it will possibly be because the tongue of the lock is not slipping into the recess in the door jamb owing to slight wear in the lock. If a small bevel is filed on to the opposite side of the tongue to the main slope, this will allow the tongue to pick up the edge of the recess and shoot home correctly.—J. A. Milverton (Thorpe Bay).

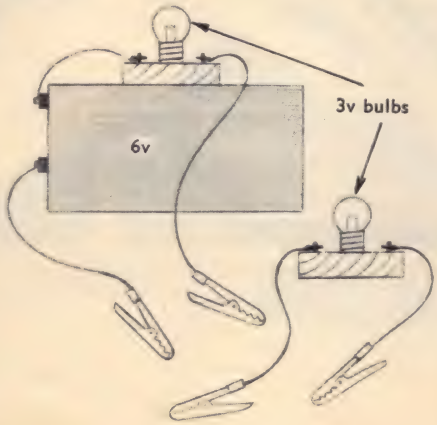
CIRCUIT TESTER

When attempting to re-wire a house or to trace a fault in the electrical system this circuit tester can be of great assistance. It consists of a 6 volt battery, two 3.5 volt or similar lamps in holders, four small crocodile clips and about 2 yards of bell wire. One of the lamp holders is attached to the battery by adhesive tape after being wired as shown.

It is essential that before use, the main switch of the house system is turned off. The practice of pulling the fuse of the circuit being tested is not to be recommended as more than one circuit may be present in a remote junction box.

To trace a cable from, say, a fuse box to a remote junction box or outlet, connect one lead of the battery unit to the cable at the fuse box and the other lead to the earthing point on the box. With the lamp unit at the junction box, connect one lead to earth and search with the other. When the circuit is found, both lamps will light. This has the advantage over a shorting lead that it can be used alternatively from each end to trace a number of cables in a single run.

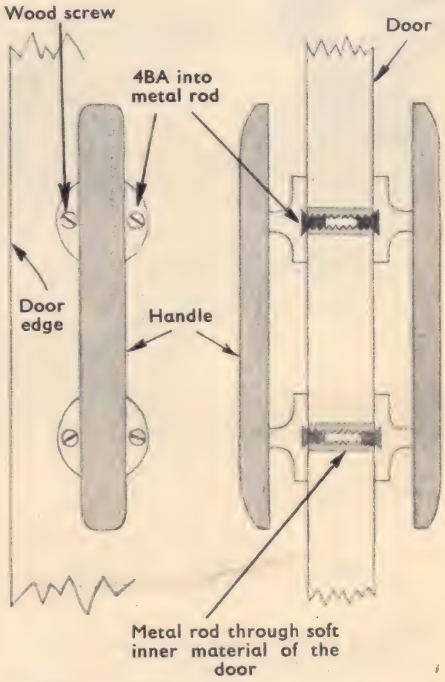
For lighting circuits where no earth is available in the box, a metal water pipe, the earth of a socket outlet or a metal building frame may be used. If the neutral cable is known to be continuous, this may be used instead of the earth. — S. B. Thomson (Silsoe).



FIXING HANDLES TO FLUSH DOORS

A problem that arises when fixing handles to flush doors in conjunction with a ball catch is that there is no substance in the door for the fixing screws. One can usually screw the two outer screws into the door framing, but the inner screws have nothing to bite into.

I overcame this by drilling two ¼in. holes through the door in line with the inner holes in the handle. I then insert two ¼in. round metal spacers, tapped ½in. deep × 4BA. It is then a simple matter to screw two ¼in. countersunk screws through the handle. I find that 4BA screws have a head size about the same size as a No. 10 wood screw. It is, of course, necessary to fix identical handles on each side of the door exactly opposite each other.—A Lawrence (Bishop's Stortford).



ANOTHER USE

I provided my own "bun" feet for a set of bookshelves that I wanted to lift slightly from the floor, by screwing under the four corners the handle-knobs from a discarded chest-of-drawers. Simplicity itself!—Mrs. M. E. Wakefield (Farnham).

LIFTING FLOORBOARDS

Perhaps the reader who was having difficulty lifting floorboards would be interested in my method. I use an ordinary circular saw attachment in my power drill. The blade is set to cut a depth of about ¾in. and I just guide the saw along the joints between the boards. This cuts neatly through the tongues without otherwise damaging the boards. To cut the boards cross-wise, I drill four ⅛in. holes and insert a hacksaw blade. This must, of course, be done adjacent to a joist.—W. B. Willars (Leicester).

continued on page 602

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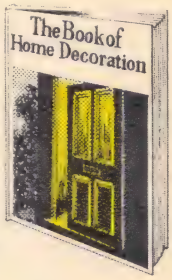

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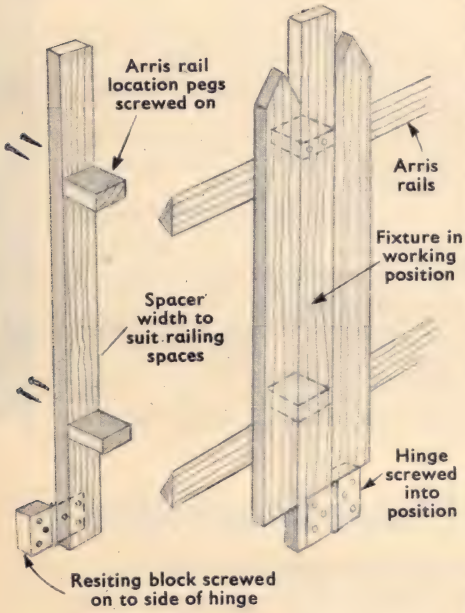
PASSING IT ON . . .

FENCING PROBLEM SOLVED

After erecting the posts and levelling the arris rails for a 100ft. long fence, I came across the problem of nailing the railings, square and equal in height, to the arris rails. As the ground was not level, I had to invent the fixture as shown in the diagram.

The first railing was set at the required height and nailed to the arris rails. The spacer with hinge attached was positioned against this railing to locate the position of the arris rail location pegs. When this had been done the remainder of the railings were very quickly erected by positioning the spacer on the arris rails and putting a railing on top of the hinged block; nailing railing to arris rail; opening hinge for fixture removal and then proceeding as before so obtaining a very square and equally spaced fence giving good appearance.—K. C. Saunders (Langley).



CUTTING LAMINATED PLASTIC STRIPS

I wished to cut several narrow strips of laminated plastic, but found that by cutting them with a saw, I was getting a very rough edge. I then used the following method which was most successful.

I took a wood marker gauge, removed the steel marker and inserted a broken thin high speed power drill which had been sharpened to a very fine cutting point. This was then inserted in the marker gauge, set to the required width and, after finding a firm cutting surface, drawn along the surface of the plastic. The sheet was then turned over and the operation repeated on the reverse side. The result was a very clean break.—A. J. Bidewell (West Wickham).

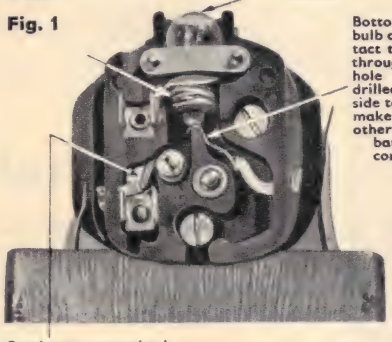
FUSE AND SOCKET TESTERS

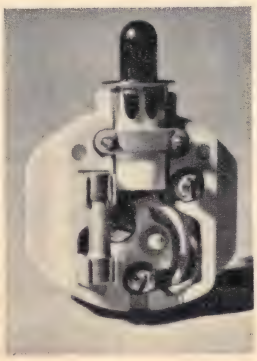
Here are two very simple-to-make and inexpensive testing units for the home electrician.

The first, shown in Fig. 1, with the cover off, is a fuse tester. It is made from a standard 13 amp. plug and entails removing the cover and drilling and filing a slot in it where the cartridge fuse is housed. This enables the fuse to be readily inserted and removed. The base of the plug has the socket posts removed and a hole drilled through each side, to take the contacts from the terminals. A blob of solder on each outside contact holds it in place and makes operation easier. You will have to make the box for the standard 4.5 volt flashlamp battery, which is inserted with the contact strips vertical. These act as on/off contacts for testing by being squeezed to the solder contacts at the side. The other component is a bulb held beneath the cord clamp at the top. The other work is simply making the conductors from terminals to contacts. The base is screwed to the battery case and then the cover replaced.

The other item, in Fig. 2, is also made from a 13 amp. plug. The earth post is not used—and it simply entails using a standard voltage neon lamp holder, also clamped beneath the cord clamp, which is wired to L and N load terminals. With the cover replaced (you must have a fuse in the plug) the unit can be used to test sockets—or whether circuits are live, the lamp failing to light if there is no current.—C. W. J. Pedder (London).

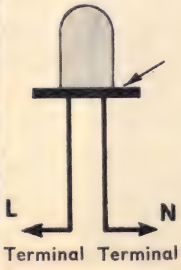
Fig. 1





Standard voltage neon lamp unit retained in cable clamp

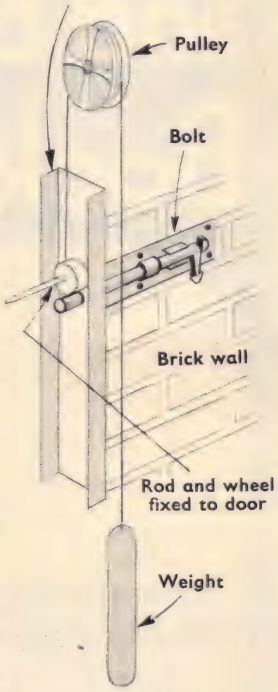
Fig. 2



GARAGE DOOR STAY

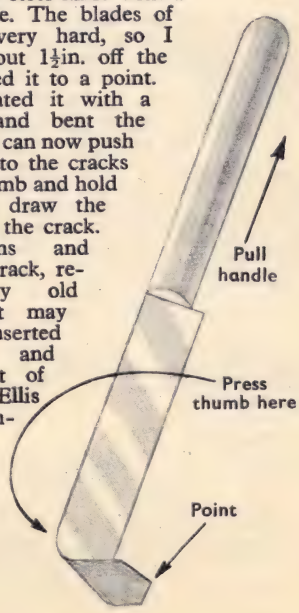
I have an up-and-over garage door and find that when in the open position and the wind blows in a certain direction, it closes the door. Because of this, one has to be sure the car is not left half in and half out of the door. To overcome this I have adapted the door stay as shown in the diagram.

When the door is in the open position, a hole is drilled in the metal channel to allow an ordinary type bolt to pass through. The bolt assembly is fixed to the brick wall on the other side of the metal channel. When the bolt is slid through it stops the wheel, fixed to the rod on the door itself, from sliding down thus keeping the door open. This procedure was carried out on both right and left-hand sides of the door and has been very satisfactory.—G. Worledge (Weymouth).



FILLING CEILING CRACKS

I have had some ceiling cracks to make up and had difficulty in opening the cracks enough to insert a plaster filler. A plasterer advised rubbing with sandpaper but this was a slow process. I found an old stainless steel knife with a metal handle. The blades of these are very hard, so I snapped about 1½in. off the end and filed it to a point. Next I heated it with a blowlamp and bent the point over. I can now push the point into the cracks with my thumb and hold it while I draw the blade along the crack. This opens and cleans the crack, removes any old plaster that may have been inserted previously and saves a lot of time. — J. Ellis (Slyne-with-Hest).



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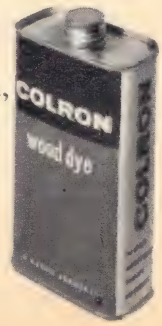
Colron is available in Light Oak, Dark Oak, Oak, Walnut, Medium Brown, and new Teak.



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Address your problems to: The Editor: PRACTICAL HOUSEHOLDER, Tower House, Southampton Street, London, W.C.2. ENCLOSE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE AND THE COUPON FROM PAGE 611 OF THE CURRENT ISSUE.
Please note: We regret we cannot prepare special designs for furniture, etc., to readers' requirements and we cannot answer queries by telephone.

AT YOUR SERVICE...

APPROVAL NOT NEEDED

If I want to install my own central heating system, am I obliged to obtain permission from my local authority? Also, do I have to have the installation inspected and approved afterwards?

I have been told that, without these measures I would be unable to claim compensation in case of fire.—A. J. Koch (Luton).

Central-heating systems do not have to be approved by your local council unless you make any alteration to a chimney. They also do not affect the insurance of your house except when oil fuel is used. If you are installing oil, it would be wise to ask the insurance company if they have any special requirements about the storage tank and pipe-lines.

COLD BATHROOM

I have recently purchased a house built about 1850, to which a bathroom and toilet have been added on the ground floor level. The concrete floor of this extension has been laid direct on to the ground and it is now very uneven and very damp. The bathroom, as a result, is like a "tomb". Apart from knocking the whole lot down, is there anything I can do to the floor?—J. W. Robson (London).

We don't think the floor is the only cause of cold and damp. Heat losses through the walls and roof are probably very high and insulation is obviously needed here. As to the floor, the fact that it is subject to rising damp means that this must be dealt with. If you don't mind increasing the floor height a little, it could be given two coats of Synthaprufe and then covered with oil-tempered hardboard laid while the second coat is still tacky.

Naturally the bathroom won't stay warm and dry without some form of heating. If you cannot run a towel rail from your existing hot water systems, then an oil-filled electric radiator would be advisable.

FROST FREE MORTAR

I am having a bungalow built by an old established, well-known builder who builds literally hundreds of houses, bungalows and flats every year. The cost of the bungalow will be about £6,750 excluding land. After some bricklaying we had a fairly severe frost and I told the builder I was worried about this as the work was not covered. He replied that it would be all right as they used anti-freeze in the water used for the mortar mix.

We inspected the brickwork two days later and there was no visible sign of damage by frost. Am I worrying unduly?—C. E. W. (Hants).

Providing the builder did as he said and used a suitable anti-freeze in the mix then the frost will have done no damage. It is, of course, his responsibility to do so and he would be responsible if, through neglect to do this, damage occurred. However, we think it reasonably certain, in his own interest, he would have used it.

PROBLEM CEILING

Our house, situated on a main road, is well built, over 100 years old and has withstood heavy traffic and quite a lot of bombing. We have just completed repairing the big sitting room, i.e. making good cornice corners and odd cracks etc. and having the ceiling professionally papered with a heavy ceiling paper (sample enclosed). Before the man came back two weeks later to paint the ceiling, a large piece of plaster about 3 ft. by 5 ft. came away immediately above the central-heating radiator. We were shattered as we thought the ceiling quite sound except for the normal wear and tear.

Do we have to take the whole ceiling down, which will be very expensive, or can you suggest some other way? I had thought that perhaps expanded polystyrene ceiling tiles might solve the problem, but my husband says they would not stick to the ceiling. No other pieces of ceiling have come down—could it be that the constant heat from the radiator has dried out the moisture in the plaster?—Mrs. R. Usher (Folkestone).

The paper is certainly quite a heavy one and would put a considerable load on the plaster. However, if all that has happened is that the plaster has come away from the laths leaving these still nailed firmly to the joists, then it could be repaired simply by replastering the area which has come away. The only way of deciding whether or not the rest of the ceiling will come down at some time in the near future will be to lift the floorboards in the room above and have a look at it. We assume it does not appear to be bulging visibly and that you cannot feel any movement when you press your hand firmly against it.

Naturally, the area you have replastered won't match the rest of the ceiling unless it is covered with the same paper. We agree with your husband that we do not think you could stick panels on top of the paper, but we don't think it would be difficult to repaper that part of the ceiling which has been patched so that it is a good match with the other. It is unlikely that the radiator did the damage. It could be that at some time or another the ceiling was repaired badly or that a burst pipe weakened the plaster.

Continued on page 608

This Month's Recipe

PORK AND APPLE CASSOLETTES

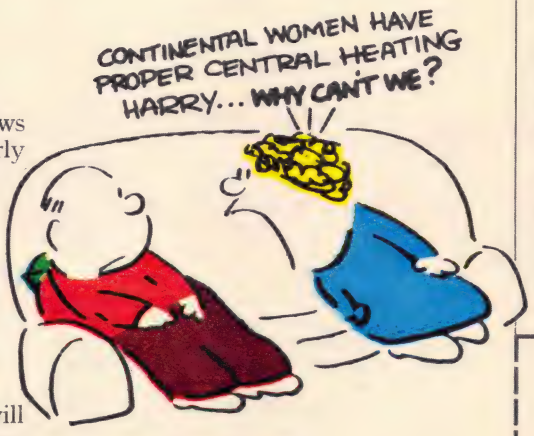
1 lb. loin of pork fillet cut into small "bite-size" pieces
2 oz. butter
1 small tin pineapple slices
½ pint stock
1 large red pepper, seeded and sliced
4 red-skinned apples, cored and sliced
Salt and pepper
Parsley

Sauté pork pieces in butter until lightly browned. Divide among four individual soufflé dishes or casseroles. Drain pineapple slices and cut in half. Add pineapple, juice and stock, and red pepper to meat. Season with salt and pepper. Place in a moderate oven, 375° F—Reg. 5, and simmer for 45-50 minutes. Add apple slices and reheat in the oven for 10 minutes, then garnish with parsley.

THIS REALLY HAPPENED
The people of Wellington Avenue watched us lay out one of the new £275 Heat-Packs in the middle of their street. We had Corbet Woodall on hand to answer their questions – and to ask his audience what they thought of the Heat-Pack deal.
"It's so compact," said Mrs. Young from nearby Huntingdon Gardens, "we could get the boiler into our kitchen quite comfortably."
No deposit - yours for as little as 16'6 a week

Face to face

The £275 High Speed Gas Central Heating Pack -and the people who realise they can afford it.



This extraordinary photograph shows a gas central heating system nearly everyone could afford. (It doesn't include the bath, of course; you've got one already.)

It's the new High Speed Central Heating Pack, or Heat-Pack for short. It costs £275, you can buy it through any Gas Board in the country, and its vital statistics are in the box on the right.

It's simple and foolproof. And it will provide warmth *and hot water* in many different kinds of houses (and flats) with 2 or 3 bedrooms.

Easy to pay over 10 years. Above all, it's cheap to buy. All that modern hardware could cost you as little as 16/6 a week with the maximum tax relief on the no-deposit 10-year loan. (Life Assurance cover for the amount of the loan available).

What makes gas central heating so superior? Ask people who have it. The thing they like about it is that *it's quick. It obeys you like your cooker does.* You control the overall temperature with the thermostat. Simple on-off knobs let you adjust the heat from each radiator. Your bedrooms need never be stuffy. You get all the heat you want—when you want—without waste.

You see, the beauty of gas is that it's always *on tap*. There's no need to store fuel, or to hump it about. And it's clean!

You qualify for the two-part tariff. The moment you install High Speed Gas central heating you qualify for the two-part tariff that gives you cheap gas *all day as well as all night.*

"How much does it cost to run?" was the commonest question in Wellington Avenue. "Between £1 and 30/- a week," replied Corbet Woodall, "depending on the size of your rooms, and so on. Most people pay about 25/-, averaged over the year. And remember, every time you hear about more gas being discovered in the North Sea the long-term prospects for gas prices improve—at least in relation to other fuel costs."

The £275 High Speed Central Heating Pack

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3 A thermostat to control the temperature automatically.

4 A circulating pump to feed hot water to the radiators.

5 Five slim radiators that fit neatly against the wall, plus clip-on towel rail.

6 An insulated hot water cylinder and expansion tank, or insulated self-priming cylinder.

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☐ Please send me the literature.

☐ I'd like an expert from my Gas Board to come and tell me all about it.

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High Speed Heat is cheap to run

AT YOUR SERVICE...

Continued from page 605

ABOUT FLUORESCENT LIGHTS

Can you please suggest any remedy for a noisy fluorescent light?—R. C. Cerden (Sale).

If the noise is a buzz from the tube itself, some makers recommend removing the tube, rotating it 180°, and replacing it. The starter choke is often the cause of noise. This may be due to loose fixing between choke and other parts. Press suspected items with an insulated tool. if a choke cover or other metal item is loose, it may possibly be secured with bolts, or by careful wedging, or in some cases by a filler between meeting surfaces If the buzz is internal (e.g. from laminations) and cannot be prevented, a new choke is needed. Also look for buzzing in metal items near the choke.

Would there be any problem in running two 40 watt circular fluorescent lights in series on a two-way switching circuit and what fuse rating would be necessary for an Autoset time-switch 13-amp plug and appliances used in conjunction with the time-switch: fuses in both plugs being necessary to complete a circuit.—L. Jones (Llandudno).

Normally, fluorescent lights may be run from a 2-way switching circuit, exactly as filament lamps. Fluorescent lamp tubes and fittings as purchased for use singly are intended to run from the full mains voltage. This means that two or more would be connected in parallel (again, as with filament lamps).

With a 240v supply, 480 watt is the maximum for a 2-amp fuse, 720 watt for a 3-amp fuse, 1200 watt for a 5-amp fuse, 2400 watt for a 10-amp fuse and 3000 watt or 3kW for a 13-amp fuse.

LIABILITY SHARED

My sewage pipes join those of my neighbour in his garden and the combined channel then flows into the main drain in the street. The combined part of the channel has broken and my neighbour says that, because it is the "shared" section, the cost of repairs should be shared even though it is on his land. Is this correct? If he must pay the cost, can anything be done if he refuses to have the work done?—G. S. (Sutton-in-Ashfield).

The rule of common law is that a thing which is of joint benefit is maintained equally by those who share the benefits which result from it. If, therefore, the damaged section is in that part of the drain which you share with your neighbour, and unless he himself has done whatever it is that caused the damage, then you share with him the cost of repair. As for refusing to have the work done, this would make you both liable for prosecution under the Public Health Act.

PAINTING ASBESTOS TILED ROOF

I have a roof of asbestos tiles which has become faded and discoloured; Can you suggest a paint which is suitable for this type of surface. I would like a matt finish, preferably red in colour.—C. A. Edwards (Exeter).

Emulsion paint as used for home decoration has a reasonable life when used on asbestos. However, there seem several possible difficulties—is the roof reasonably clean and free from soot; can you get at it without damage to the asbestos to paint or spray it; assuming that the paint will last three or four years at most, do you really want the job of re-doing it at these intervals?

We think that much the same applies to any type of paint that you might use and, accordingly, it might be better to leave things as they are, unless the roofing is fairly small and easily accessible.

LEAKING WINDOW FRAME

Recently, during a heavy rainstorm, water seeped through and round the window frame of a picture window in the gable-end of my house which was facing directly into the wind and rain. The house is only three years old and a complaint to the builder about the seepage resulted in some form of putty-type sealing compound being applied over the old painted putty holding the glass in the window. However, in a rainstorm seepage still occurs and the wall has developed damp white patches which have damaged the decoration and are unsightly. I shall be grateful for your advice as to how this trouble can be cured.—C. G. (Co. Durham).

It depends where the rain is getting in. It could, of course, be at the gap between the window frame and the brickwork, but there are other possibilities. If the wall is a cavity wall, a suitable d.p.c. may not have been provided at the sides of the opening, or a d.p.c. may have been omitted over the lintel. The cavity may have become bridged by mortar droppings or pieces of brick, so that the rain can come through the wall.

We are inclined to think that you should write firmly to the builder telling him that you are not willing to accept the present state of affairs and that during the summer you will require the window to be removed from the wall, the state of affairs investigated and whatever is necessary done to put matters right.

DEMOLISHING OUTBUILDING

I intend to demolish a brick outbuilding, which houses coal bunker and W.C., with a slate roof common to my neighbour. Is planning permission necessary? I enclose a rough sketch, would you please advise me how I tackle the job—my knowledge of water pipes/supply etc. is virtually nil. One point that worries me is, having removed my side of the roof, how do I make good the Apex?—P. E. Foulkes (Liverpool).

You don't need planning permission to demolish the actual brickwork, but it would be wise to have a word with your local Council building inspector to discuss the sealing off of the connection to the sewer.

"It's not everyone that can use it so well . . . still we're expecting the electrician any day now."

So far as the demolition goes, naturally you will have to remove the roof first. If it is an old building you will probably find the bricks are set in lime mortar and they will come away very easily with only a little hammer and chisel work. The water pipe could probably be made use of to provide a stand pipe and tap for garden purposes. If you don't want it for this then it should be sealed off, if possible below ground level to reduce the risk of frost. If it is in galvanised iron you can obtain a suitable cap or plug at any good ironmongers. If it is in lead, it is really a job for a plumber.

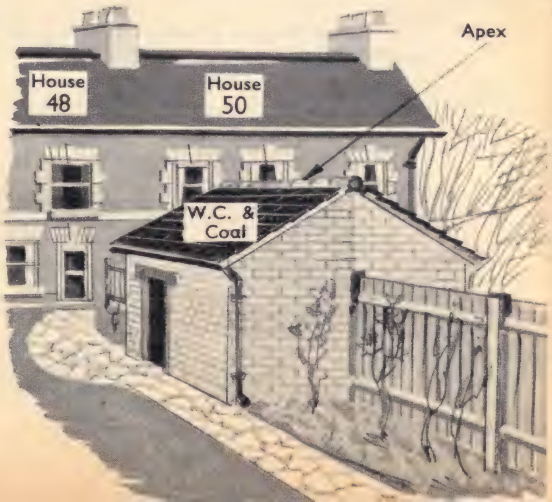
We don't know if there is a vent pipe for the drain at the W.C. If there is, the inspector will probably be willing for you to simply seal off the existing connections between the W.C. pan and the soil pipe. If there is no vent pipe he may possibly require you to fit one to occupy the space where the W.C. now is.

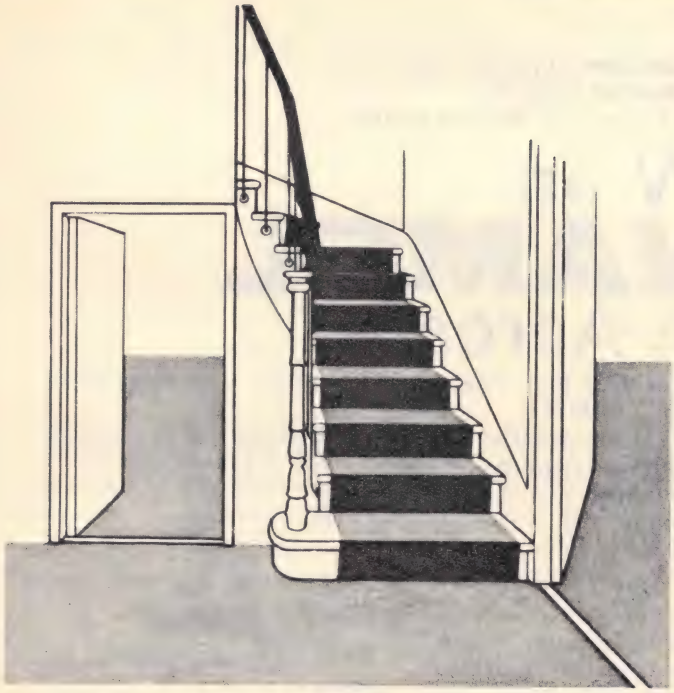
At the ridge of the roof you will probably need to provide a capping, either in zinc or Nuralite, which will have to go at least 1 ft. down below the ridge of your neighbour's side, and it would be wise to continue it for about 1 ft. down on your own side. It would be advisable to render that side of your neighbour's W.C. which will now be exposed to the weather, and a 1:3 cement-sand mix would be suitable.

TILED PATH

I intend to lay a surface of 6in. red quarry tiles in place of the present ones which are cracked, loose and uneven. Could you please tell me how

Continued on page 611





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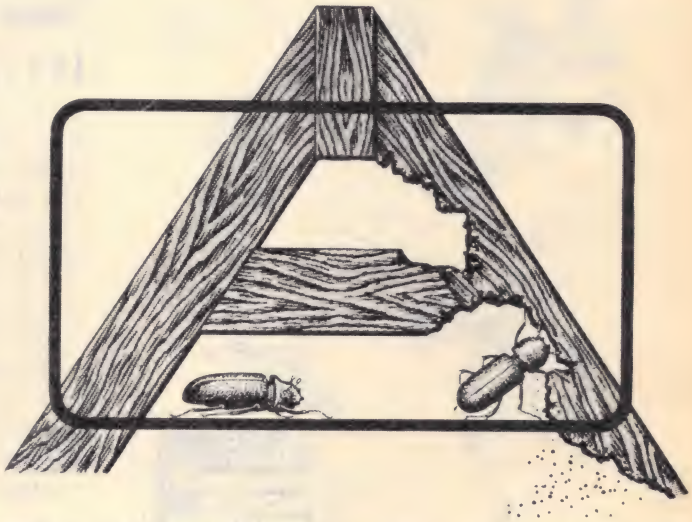
voracious vampires!



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SADIA better made—for hot water at cool prices

AT YOUR SERVICE . . .

Continued from page 608

to go about this job. The tiles are in the small pathway at the front of my house which leads on to a concrete step which I would also like to tile. Would you please let me know how long after the job is done, before people can walk on the tiles.—J. W. Willis (Liverpool).

We don't really recommend smooth quarry tiles outdoors. The weather does them no harm but they can be slippery in wet or frosty days. The ribbed patterns are better and a good builders' merchant will get these for you.

The base is 1:3 cement-sand mix screeded level. When dry enough to work on, the tiles are laid on this, using the thinnest possible "buttering" of mortar (the same 1:3 mix). The tiles must not come above the level of the d.p.c. in the house wall—in fact the d.p.c. should be at least 6in. or two courses above the level of the path. Allow three days (longer if the weather is cold) before putting the path in use.

RENEWING GUTTERING

My problem is how to remove a very old length of ogee moulded guttering. If I use force I shall do a lot of damage as the slates project into it as shown in the diagram. The jointing material (putty I think) has set very hard and there is a danger of breaking the gutter of the adjoining house next door.

In your February issue you advise against resting a ladder against the guttering but how can you extend a ladder above the roof without doing this?—H. E. McMurray (Belfast).

It depends how the guttering was originally fixed. As a rule, Ogee guttering is screwed direct to a backing board and, if you look carefully, you will be able to find where the screws are so that they can be removed or drilled out. If you don't fancy doing this, then we would suggest you try to patch up the broken guttering with some galvanised sheeting or glass fibre. Or perhaps you could get a short length of plastic guttering and bed this in with mastic.

As to the ladder, you can reach the guttering quite comfortably with the ladder on the wall beneath it. If you need to get at the roof above, a sack of wood shavings should come between the ladder and the eaves. It would be wise to rope the ladder on one side (e.g. to a window) so that it can't slip.

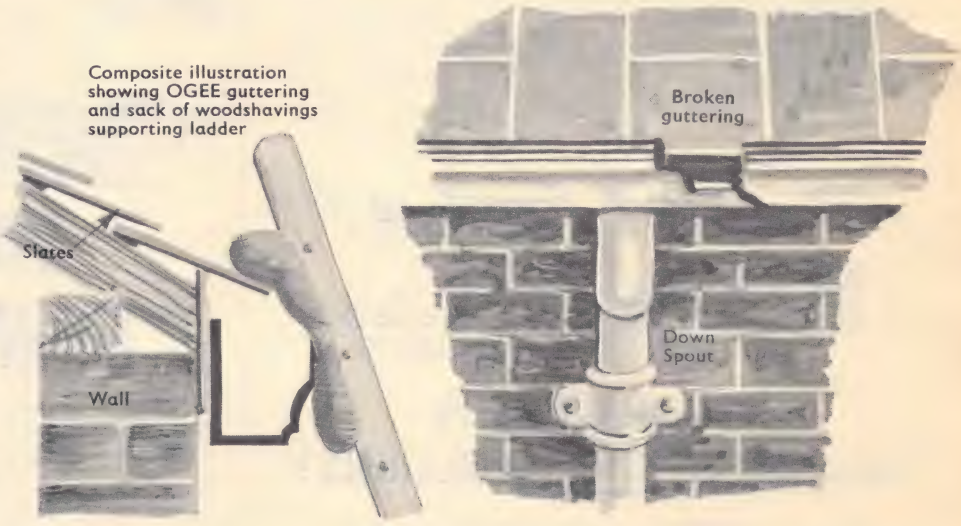
CEILING DAMAGED BY CONTRACTORS

Rentokil Laboratories Ltd., have asked us to point out that when eradicating woodworm, they assume entire responsibility for the job. If any damage of the kind the reader described in our April issue occurred in a job done by them, then they would accept full responsibility for putting the matter right.

FIXING SOOT DOOR

Would you please tell me how to fit a 9in. × 6in. double soot door into existing brick stack.—J. Jones (London).

It is simply a question of cutting through the brickwork at any convenient point. Nine inches is the usual brick length and 6in. height represents two courses of brickwork, so it really boils down to removing one brick completely and cutting two half bricks away. The opening is then tidied up and flushed with a 1:4 cement-sand mix with the actual soot door bedded in this. If you haven't bought the door already, the double doors are best.



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Vol. 1 Oct. 1955—Nov. 1956
Vol. 2 Dec. 1956—Nov. 1957
Vol. 3 Dec. 1957—Nov. 1958
Vol. 4 Dec. 1958—Jan. 1960
Vol. 5 Feb. 1960—Jan. 1961
Vol. 6 Feb. 1961—Jan. 1962
Vol. 7 Feb. 1962—Jan. 1963
Vol. 8 Feb. 1963—Jan. 1964
Vol. 9 Feb. 1964—Jan. 1965
Vol. 10 Feb. 1965—Jan. 1966
Vol. 11 Feb. 1966—Jan. 1967
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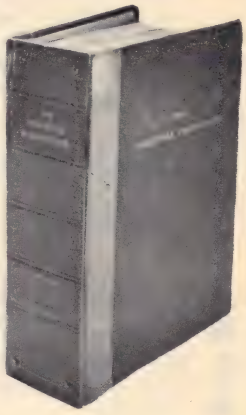
This issue is the fifth of volume 13, so why not order an Easi-Binder right away? And when ordering, do remember to stipulate which volume number you would like blocked on the spine.



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A stamped, addressed envelope must also be enclosed.
Practical Householder June, 1968

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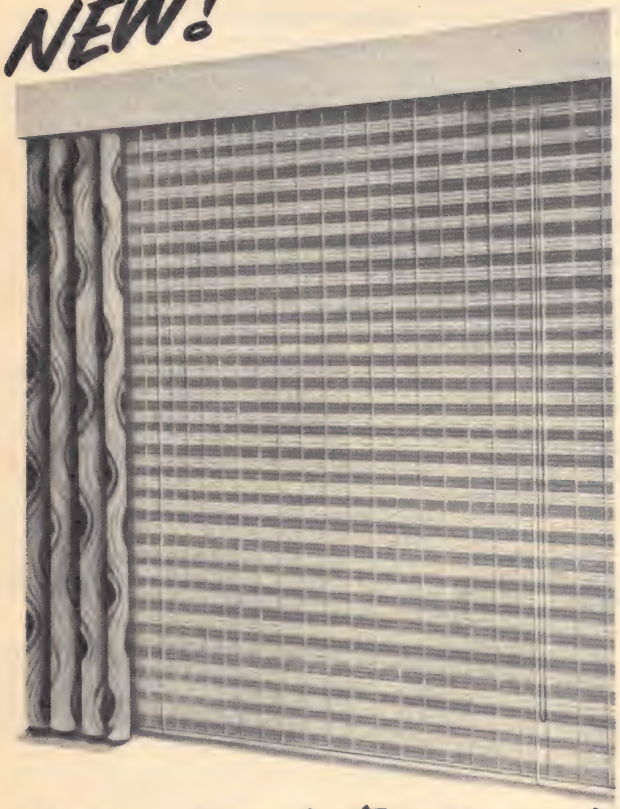

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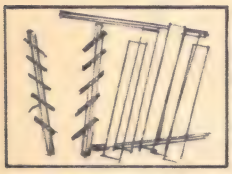

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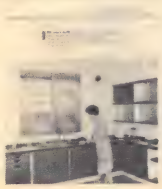

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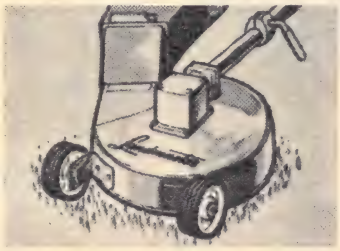
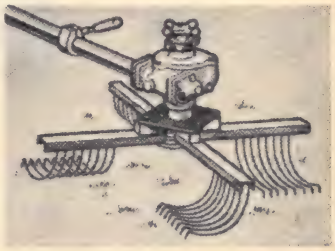
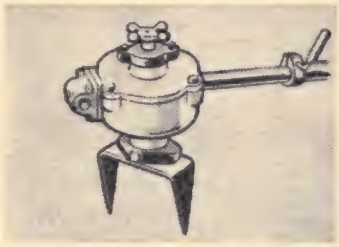


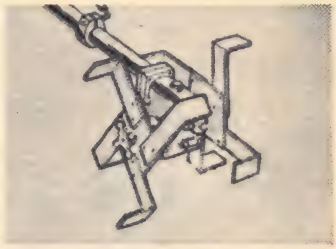
Mow your lawn and cut down the rough grass that's grown out of hand.



Rake out matted grass, trailing weeds and moss from your lawns.



Spin weed and aerate the soil in your flower beds and borders.



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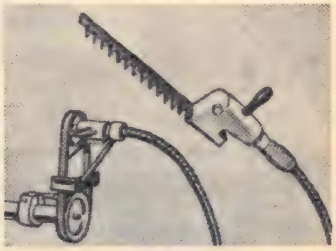

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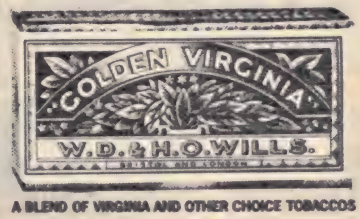

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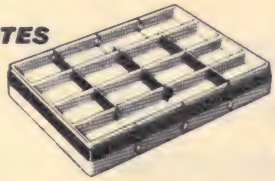

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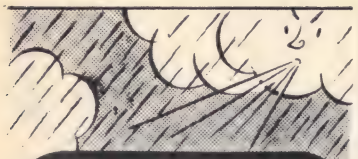

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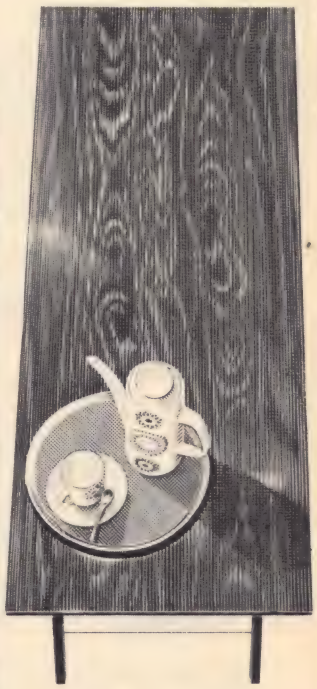

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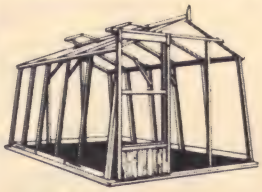

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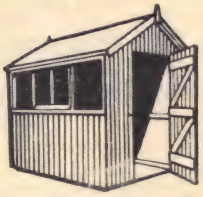

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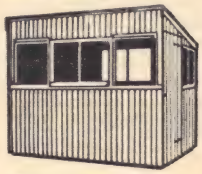

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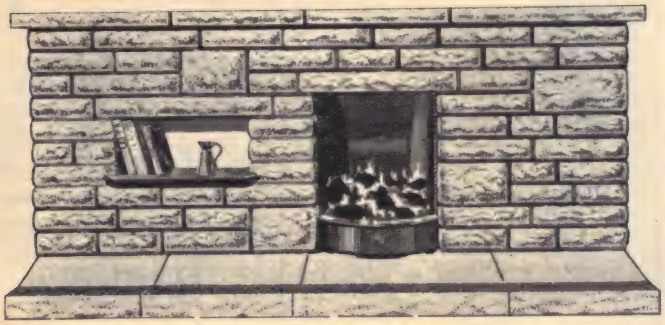

Dave assembled this superb cast Cotswold stone fireplace for less than the cost of an ordinary tile surround. And he doesn't even consider himself a do-it-yourself expert! Jane chose it from Bradstone's exclusive range of 6 models covering 10 sizes from 40 in. to 88 in.—all under £36.
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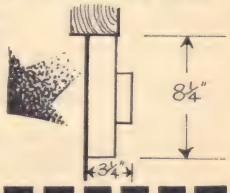

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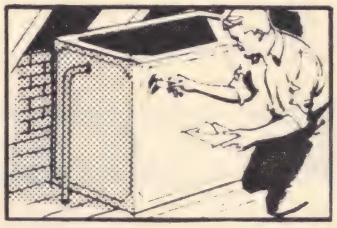

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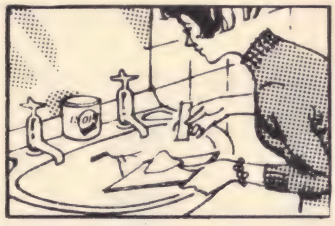

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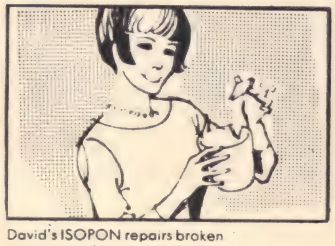

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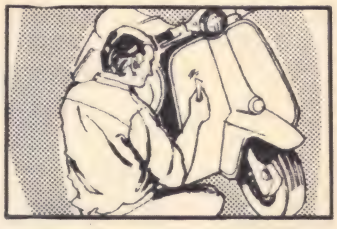

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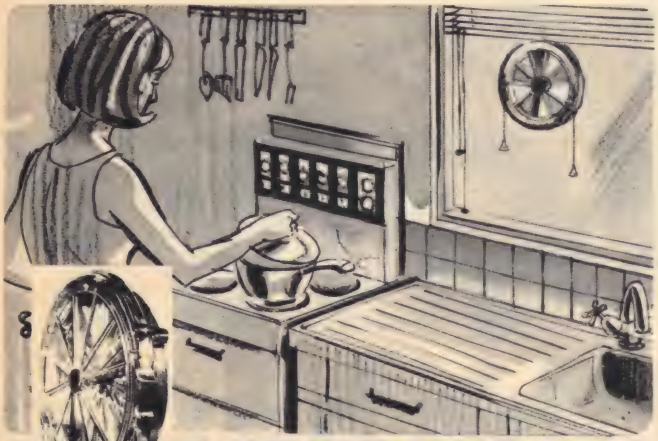

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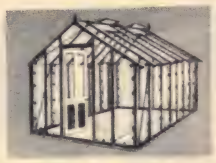

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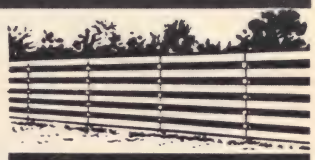

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ADVERTISEMENT

Add Sparkle to the Garden with FOUNTAINS and WATERFALLS

says

Derek Johnson

Moving water makes refreshing music, cools and oxygenates the water, delights the fish, and gives the garden unique charm.

FOUNTAINS and waterfalls are a decided asset to a garden pool, for practical as well as ornamental reasons.

Apart from delighting the ear with musical sound, every bubble carried below the surface by the cascade, every droplet from the fountain spray, increases the oxygen content of the water, cools it in hot weather, and makes the pool a healthier and happier place for the fish.

No mains supply needed

Moving water, then, is a good thing—but it must not be overdone. Water lilies will not flower freely in cold strong currents. So it is no help to have a natural stream running through a pool. Neither is it a good idea to run cold mains water continuously through the pool; the fish might not object, but water lilies certainly will—and so, probably, will the local water board. Such a scheme is not only undesirable, but quite unnecessary.

The cardinal rule of any moving water arrangement is to *circulate the water from the pool itself*. All you need is a pump to push the water through the fountain jet or lift it to the top of the watercourse. Gravity brings it back. The water goes round and around, slightly cooled but not made cold; currents are kept to a minimum. The fish are happy, the lilies are happy and so, presumably, is the water board.

Complete pump kits

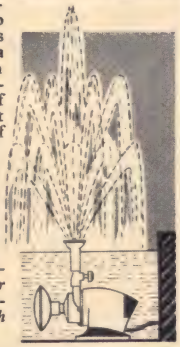
Pumps are divided into two types—submersible and surface. Submersible pumps simply sit in the water, submerged and silent, needing no fixing or plumbing. A surface pump works in the dry, housed in a pump chamber beside the pool. It draws water from the pool, then pumps it along polythene delivery lines to the fountain and/or waterfall outlets.

There are several models available in each category, all excellent, but varying in output and in cost. For any water garden application, be it a single fountain or an ambitious combination of several fountains, ornaments and waterfalls, there is one that will be the most efficient and economical for that job. But how to decide which one?

One way is to study performance tables, pressures, volumes and other technicalities. The simpler way is to consult a comprehensive water garden manual which not only gives the vital statistics for a whole range of pumps, but makes it very clear which is best for any purpose. Whether you fancy a simple fountain, a modest waterfall, water spouting from a lion's mask, an intricate spray pattern from a stone ornament, or a combination of any or all of these, you will find not only the right pump, but a pump *kit*, complete down to the last hose clip, to provide all you need. In addition there is a jet approval service *and* the offer of free advice.

Mine of information

The manual also describes the principles of pool design and the reasons for them; compares construction techniques and materials; describes aquatic plants and how to grow them; shows how the pool can remain clear without changing the water; removes the mystery from fish-keeping, and generally provides practical tips on trouble-free ways to achieve and enjoy the pleasures of the water garden. The manual is available without cost to all readers of this magazine. It is a mine of information that makes fascinating reading even if you've never dreamt of having a pool of your own.



Silent, safe and simple, an Otter submersible pump works in the pool, producing a sparkling fountain spray or supplying a waterfall—or even both simultaneously!

Water pumped from the pool tumbles down cascades back to the pool; the same water goes round and around and, once filled, the pool needs no supply from the mains.

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For 'Practical Householder' readers

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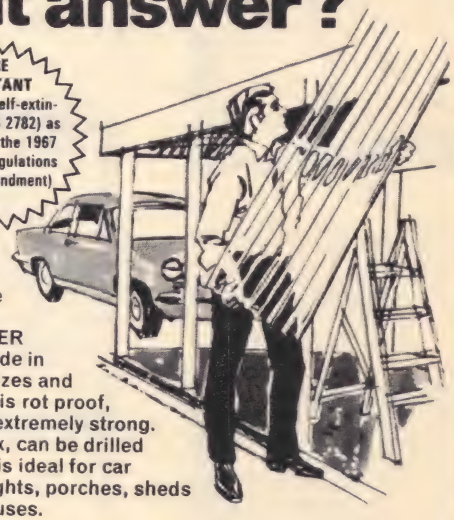

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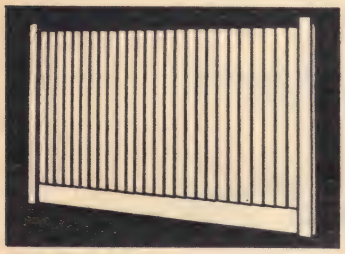

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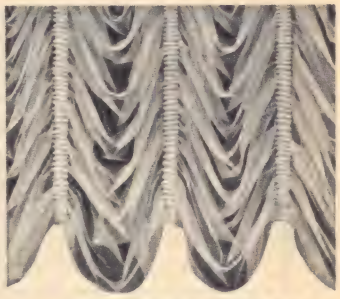

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Rufflette Standard Tape in cotton for most fabrics, Nylon, drip dry and non-shrink for glass and man-made fibres. Terylene, specially designed for net styling. Lining Tape for simple detachable curtain linings. Ask for Rufflette Hooks and Rings.

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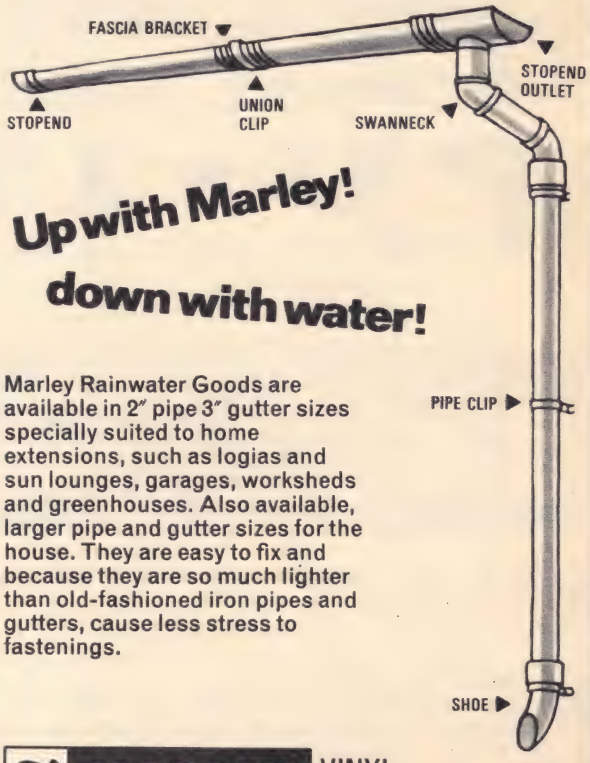

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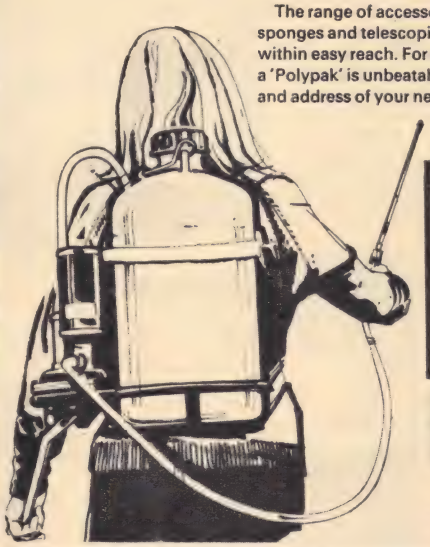

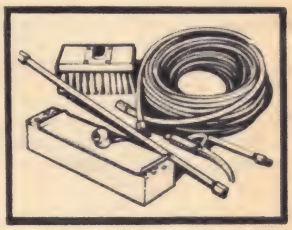

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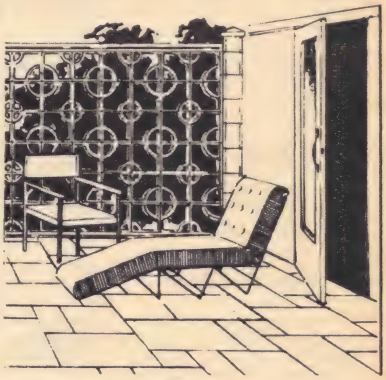

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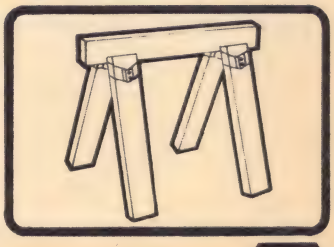

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Cover up the past!

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bring modern easy clean beauty to every floor

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Please send me name of my nearest Marley stockist and details of:-

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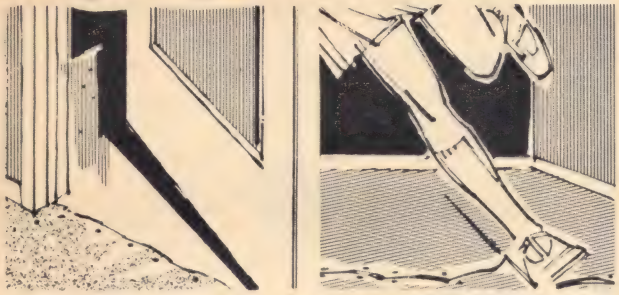
Have you any of these Danger Signs in your home?



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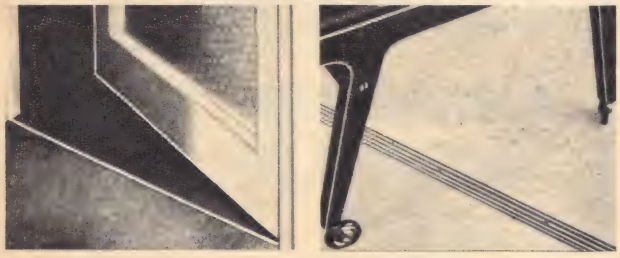

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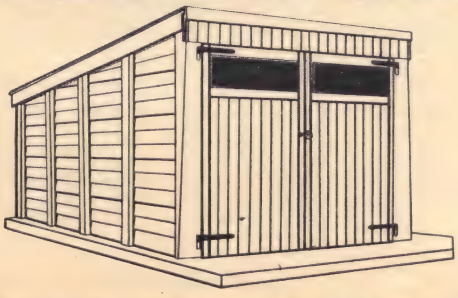

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FOR PEOPLE WHO GET ABOUT

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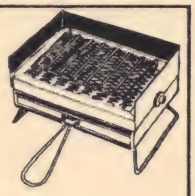

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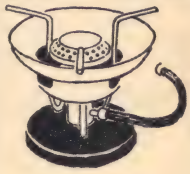
compact folding grill



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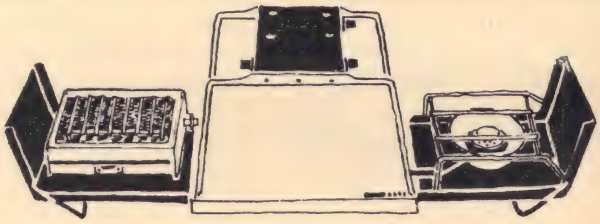
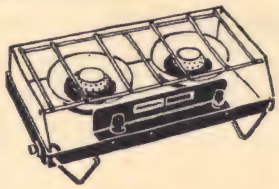


Tourer de luxe travel cooker £12 . 13s . 6d



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popular twin burner

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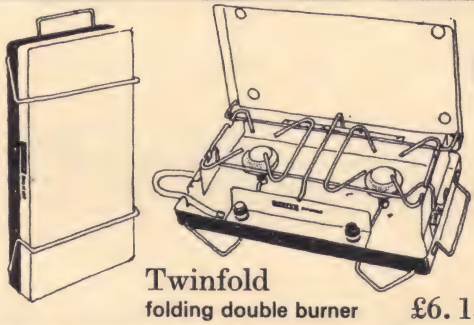

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Price unchanged

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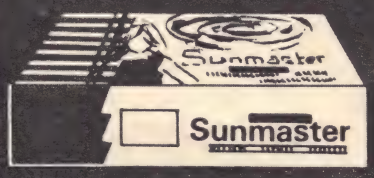

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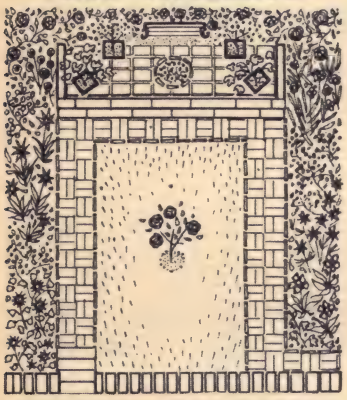

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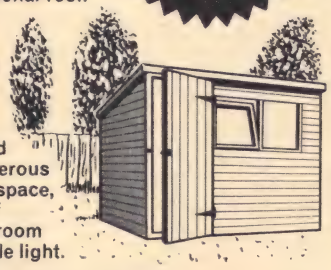

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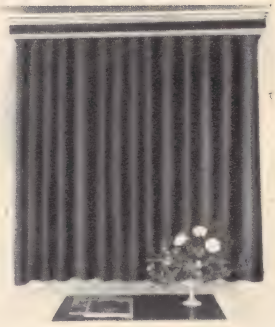

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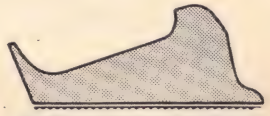

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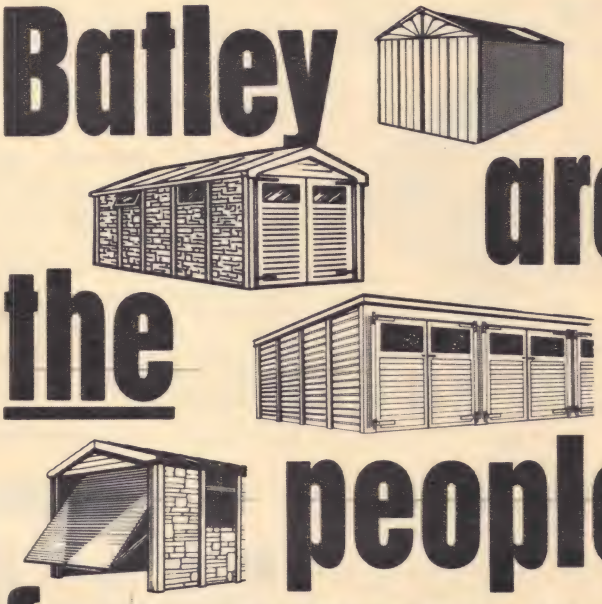

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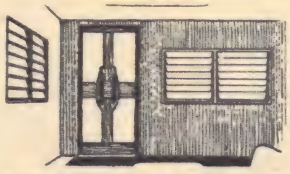

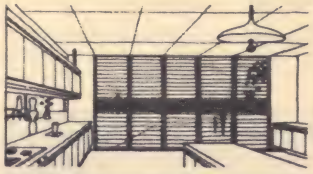

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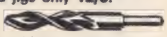

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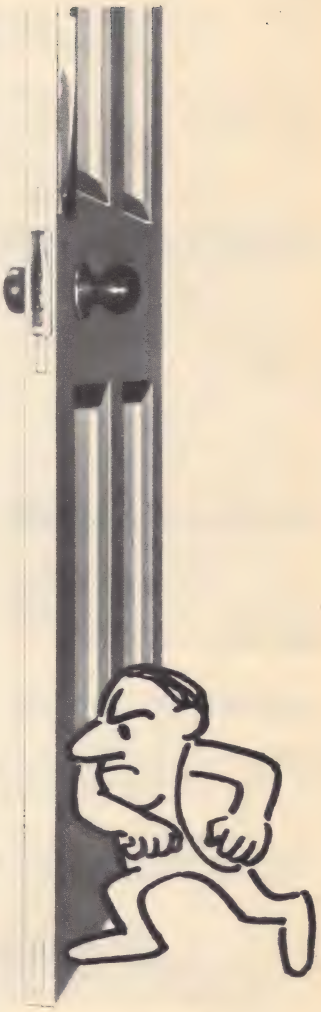

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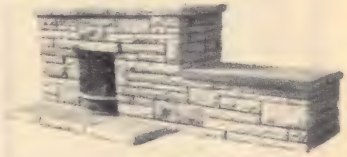

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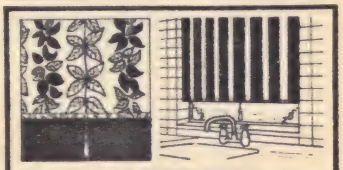

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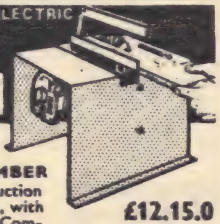

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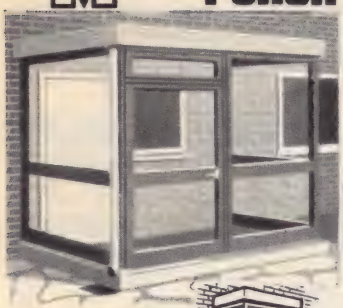

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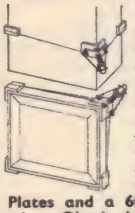

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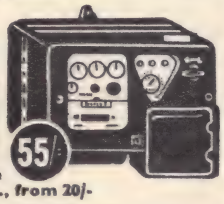

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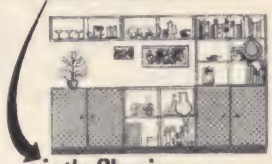

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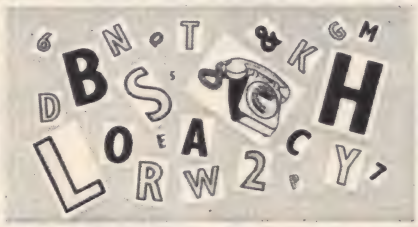

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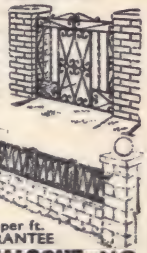

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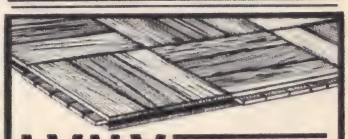

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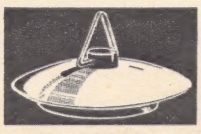

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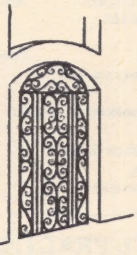

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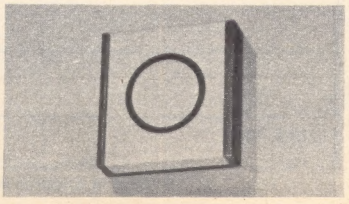

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Decorator's Materials and Building Supplies

		Page
*	0006 Aaronson Bros. Ltd.	526
☐	0041 Addis Brushes	587
☐	0008 Appleton, N. V. (U.K.) Ltd. (Louvre)	614
☐	0034 Appleton, N. V. (U.K.) Ltd. (Slimlite)	526
☐	0049 Arborite Superdec	574, 575
☐	0015 Ardex Surfaces Ltd.	517
☐	0012 Armabord Ltd.	603
*	0565 Baromix Ltd.	638
☐	0509 Bensons	638
☐	0548 Bottomley, J. C., & Emerson Ltd.	638
☐	0510 Bradley, E. H., & Sons Ltd.	618
☐	1759 Cement Marketing (Snowcem)	502
☐	1705 City Gate & Fencing Co. Ltd.	635
☐	1742 Coal Products	613
☐	1785 Coburn Engineers Ltd.	627
☐	1712 Cockle, Henry Ltd.	639
☐	1774 Crown (Book of Home Decorating)	601
☐	2512 David's Isopon	619
☐	2518 Deb Chemicals (Swarfega)	516
☐	2521 Deb Chemicals (Jizer)	622
☐	2509 D.K.M. Paints	637
☐	2932 Expandite Retail Division (Decopath)	624
☐	2933 Expandite Retail Division (Seelastik)	524
☐	3215 Fablon	580
☐	3204 Foxroyd Ladders	639
☐	3524 GKN Hardened Fixing Pins	498
☐	3515 Grangersol Ltd.	520, 631
☐	3848 Hadfields (Merton) Ltd.	505
☐	3836 Harris, L. G., & Co. Ltd.	604
☐	3847 Hinton, John Ltd.	516
☐	3824 Home Sales Company	634
☐	3805 Humbrol	610
☐	4519 I.C.I. (Dulite)	595
☐	4510 Izal Ltd. (Colron)	604
☐	4703 Joy (Scratch Dressing)	528
☐	4810 King, Geo. W., Ltd.	629
☐	4811 Knight, H. P., Ltd.	533
☐	5013 Leicester Wrought Iron Work Co.	634
☐	5011 Loft Ladders Ltd.	635
☐	5257 M. & M. Mail Order Co.	637
☐	5241 Marley Diy.	621, 623, 625, 627
☐	5228 Metal Mouldings Ltd.	529
☐	5819 Ness, Thomas, Ltd.	516
☐	5820 Newhall Metal Products Ltd.	510
☐	5804 Newtonite Ltd.	519
☐	6008 Omega Plastics Ltd.	523, 525
☐	6105 Parsons, E., & Sons Ltd.	617
*	6134 Penthouse Decor	521
☐	6108 Plus Gas Co. Ltd.	514
☐	6107 Plycol-Montgomerie Ltd.	503, 603
☐	6126 Polycell (Cement Paint)	Cover iv
☐	6126 Polycell (Wallpaper Products)	536
☐	6703 Ramsay Ladders	637
☐	6704 Rawlplug Co. Ltd.	515
☐	6705 Richards Tiles Ltd.	530, 531
☐	6742 Roberts, J. W., Ltd.	520
☐	7391 Sand-Pak Kit (3M Co.)	499
☐	7314 Sefco Ltd.	637
☐	7344 Silexine Paints	573
☐	7315 Smiths of Bristol	627
☐	7378 Solignum Ltd.	609
*	7345 Spirecraft Fireplaces	639
☐	7370 Stephens & Carter Ltd.	632
☐	7362 Sylglas Co.	617
☐	8504 Tebrax Ltd. (Shelving Brackets)	528
☐	8529 Terralone Ltd.	630
☐	8505 Thornfields	637
☐	8538 Transatlantic Plastics Ltd.	618
☐	9107 Wilcot (Parent) Co. Ltd.	639
☐	9117 Windowchange Ltd.	629
☐	9806 Youngman, W. C., Ltd.	497

Electrical

		Page
*	0512 Brill, E., Ltd.	638
☐	3520 Globe Scientific Ltd.	636
☐	6009 Ortec Electronics Ltd.	634
☐	6111 Proops Bros. Ltd.	517

Flooring Materials and Floor Coverings

		Page
☐	0027 Armes, W., & Son Ltd.	510
☐	1740 Copydex Ltd.	609
*	3209 Flooring Supplies	634
*	3504 Gloster Parquet Co.	631
*	3801 Hewetson, J. A., & Co. Ltd.	638
*	5005 Laymatt Flooring Co.	521
☐	6112 Par-K-Ply	616
☐	6124 Point One Products	513
☐	7301 Springwell Mills M.O. Ltd.	509
*	7317 Surreyboard Co. Ltd.	533

Furniture, Furnished Kits and Furnishing

		Page
☐	0514 Berman Bros. (Panels), Ltd.	535
☐	1715 Cimco Ltd.	628
☐	1745 Clevedon Woodcrafts Ltd.	510
☐	2519 Desmo Ltd.	510
☐	7361 Dexion Ltd.	522
☐	3220 Fillaspace Products Ltd.	532
☐	3210 Furni-Kit	634
☐	3533 Gratnells Ltd.	617
☐	3514 Grovewood Products Ltd.	500
☐	3854 Harrison Drape	592
☐	3817 Headquarter & General Supplies Ltd. (Cover Plan)	504
☐	3835 Hudson, W. A., Ltd.	529
☐	5001 Louvre (Windows) Ltd.	633
☐	5206 Maylords	518
☐	5230 M.F.I. (Fire Surrounds)	533
☐	5240 Miniscaf Ltd.	629
☐	5805 Northern Industries	588
☐	6114 Peerless Built-In Furniture Ltd.	513
☐	6602 Quillven Ltd.	Cover ii
☐	6604 Quillven Ltd. (Rolreed)	612
☐	6709 Reliant Venetian Blinds Ltd.	534
☐	6710 Roberts, H. A. (Furnishers) Ltd.	638
*	6727 Rufflette Ltd.	624
☐	7304 Solarbo (Pelmets) Ltd.	631
☐	7320 Sunvene Ltd.	634
*	7321 System Equipments Ltd.	528
☐	9118 Winchmore Whitewood Ltd.	503
☐	9103 Witney Blanket Co. Ltd.	506
☐	9104 Wren Craft Furniture Ltd.	620

Garages, Sheds, Greenhouses, Home Extensions and Garden Supplies

		Page
☐	0501 Banbury Buildings Ltd.	535
☐	0544 Bancroft & Partners Ltd.	629
☐	0516 Bath, T. & Co. Ltd.	624
*	0506 Batley, Ernest Ltd.	525, 632
☐	0517 B.F.B. Productions (Seal)	638
☐	0504 Blacknell Buildings Ltd.	612
☐	0582 Brackley Concrete Ltd.	504
*	0519 Broadland Gates	638
☐	1719 Cases, E. C. Ltd. (Fencing)	500
☐	1720 Cases, E. C. Ltd. (Sheds)	521
☐	1721 Cedarworth	618
☐	1722 Chadwick's (Ken-Fence)	639
☐	1723 City Timber Ltd.	624
☐	1724 Classic Portable Buildings Ltd.	524, 638
☐	1706 Coates Fencing Ltd.	532
☐	1786 Colas Products Ltd.	631
☐	1761 Cole, W. & D. Ltd.	634
☐	1762 Compton Associates	615
☐	1725 Corbett, Joseph, Ltd.	621
☐	1726 Cotswold Buildings Ltd. (Concrete Garages)	513
☐	2507 Dencroft Ltd.	498
☐	2906 E. & B. (Timber Products) Ltd.	637
☐	3212 Fitzpatrick Stone Ltd.	637
☐	3525 Gardencraft	639
☐	3808 Hall's Cedarwood	630
☐	3809 Haskins	634
☐	3837 Higgs Foulkes & Co. (1960) Ltd.	508
☐	3826 Highlands Water Gardens	622
☐	4704 Jennings, C. E. (1910) Ltd.	636
☐	4803 Kenkast Sales Ltd.	623
☐	5026 Landmaster Ltd.	614
☐	5207 Marley	637
☐	5207 Marley Concrete Ltd.	514
☐	5208 Moderector Ltd.	519
☐	5816 Newlake Gardens	630
☐	5815 Noelite Ltd.	626
☐	6003 Oakworth Greenhouses	620
☐	6013 Ogle, Joseph, & Sons Ltd.	516
☐	6115 Park Lines Ltd.	634
☐	6102 Penhill Supplies Ltd.	516
☐	6136 Pilning Forge	639
☐	6111 Proops Bros. Ltd.	520
☐	7322 Sears, E. H., & Co. Ltd.	529
☐	7347 Selby, F., Ltd.	524
☐	7380 Snow, John, & Co. Ltd.	588
☐	7323 Sturdy Concrete Co. Ltd.	628
☐	7367 Supreme Portable Building Co. Ltd.	533
☐	8539 Temple Pavex Ltd.	596
☐	8501 Thorn, J., & Sons Ltd.	507
☐	9102 Washington, D. & G., Ltd.	638
☐	9101 Westland Engineers Ltd.	639
☐	9119 Williams & Dickinson (London) Ltd.	638
☐	9802 Yorkshire Hut Co. Ltd.	634

Heating and Ventilation

		Page
☐	0005 Autocon Mfg. Co.	636
☐	0534 Baxifire	502
☐	1709 Colchester Fan Marketing Co. Ltd.	521
☐	1740 Cosy Home Heating Supplies	621
☐	2503 Dawton Electrics	638
☐	2504 Designed Heating & Supplies	519
☐	2523 Discount Central Heating Ltd.	636
☐	2515 Domestic Installations Co.	596
☐	2505 Dunsley Heating Appliance Co. Ltd.	517
☐	3529 Gas Council	606, 607
☐	3815 Hall Green Heating Supplies	636
☐	3807 Home Heating Supplies Ltd.	511
☐	3816 Household Heating Supplies Ltd.	512
☐	4705 J. & J. Home Heating Supplies Ltd.	524
☐	4701 Jeyes, S A. & Co. Ltd.	528
☐	5803 Norris, D. L. (Heating Distributors) Ltd.	532
☐	5818 Numatic Engineering Ltd.	618
☐	6741 Radiation Parkray Ltd.	591
☐	6702 Ravensbourne Heating Ltd.	520
☐	6740 Redfyre Ltd.	584
☐	7312 Sadia Water Heaters Ltd.	610
☐	7311 Servotomic Ltd.	579
☐	7313 Simon, R. W. Ltd.	620
*	8503 Titchen, A. C., & Co. Ltd.	508
☐	9701 Xpelair Ltd.	592

Insulations

		Page
*	0007 Apex Enterprises	533
☐	0568 Berry Wiggins & Co. Ltd.	508
☐	3222 Floorlife & Building Chemicals Ltd.	639
☐	3205 Furnigias Ltd.	626
☐	6103 Pilkington Double Glazing	588
☐	6729 Ross Insulation Products Ltd.	511

Tools and Power Tools

		Page
☐	0550 Balfour & Darwins Ltd.	633
*	0581 Baker & Son	637
☐	0580 Black & Decker Specialised Power Tools	512
☐	0521 Burgess Products Co. Ltd.	626, 635
☐	1763 Castinall Products Ltd.	635
☐	1727 Cintride Ltd.	522
*	1728 Coronet Tool Co.	Cover iii
☐	2508 Dominion Machinery Co. Ltd.	525
☐	2915 Eclipse	596
☐	2907 Ellin, Thos. R. (Footprint Works) Ltd.	519
☐	2929 Elliot-Lucas Ltd.	524
☐	3817 Headquarter & General Supplies	634
☐	3813 Heywood Tool Co.	637
*	4503 Inns, James (Engineers)	637
☐	4817 Kestrel Engineering Co. Ltd.	626
☐	5020 Lemsford Engineering Co.	638
☐	5210 Merrivale Mfg. Ltd.	616
☐	6146 Parramore, F., & Sons Ltd. (Vices)	617
☐	6144 Power Tools (Patents) Ltd.	509
☐	6724 Ronson Varaflame Blowtorch	527
☐	7383 Stanley Bridges	583
☐	7363 Stanley Surform	631, 633, 635
☐	7363 Stanley Works (GB) Ltd.	599
☐	8531 Tangye-Shelley Ltd.	534
☐	9120 Wolf Electric Tools Ltd.	576

Miscellaneous

		Page
☐	0028 A.S.L. Products	584
☐	0532 Bourner, F. H., & Co. (Engineers) Ltd.	523
☐	0523 B.R.C. Engineering Co.	636
☐	0569 Brillo Mfg. Co. Ltd.	511
☐	0526 Buckingham Press Ltd.	625
☐	0524 B.T.U. Engineering	636
☐	0570 Buywell Supplies	636
☐	1770 Capital Swimming Pools Ltd.	518
☐	1775 Cappa-Pot	636
☐	1787 Carlton Mills	637
☐	1764 Celmac Distributors Ltd. (Tap Swirls & Plugs)	639
☐	1708 Cuprinol Ltd. (Wood Preserver)	506
*	2513 Direct Wholesale (Mail Order) Supplies	532
☐	2930 Edge, William & Sons Ltd.	632
☐	2905 Ellard Sliding Door Gears Ltd.	616
☐	2916 Evered & Co. (Hardware) Ltd. (Diplomat Castors)	522
☐	2924 Evered & Co. (Hardware) Ltd. (Door Bells & Chimes)	630
☐	3202 Friedland Chimes	639
☐	3505 Gamages	Cover iii
☐	3534 Germolene	632
☐	3507 Gladwin, T., Supplies	636
☐	3508 Graham, James, & Co. Ltd.	637
*	3855 H. H. Supplies	636
☐	3810 Hipkin, F. W., Ltd. (Whirline)	504
☐	3846 Household Products Mail Order	637, 638
☐	4514 Ingersoll Locks Ltd.	627
☐	4806 Kay & Co. Ltd.	Cover iii
☐	5014 Legge, J., & Co. Ltd.	532
☐	5258 Meta Tablets	634
☐	5213 Miracle Grip	520
☐	5246 Morphy Richards	498
☐	5214 Myers, J. & Co. Ltd.	517, 518
☐	6118 Player's Sun Valley	501
☐	6743 Rannex Developments Ltd.	616
☐	6712 Rentokil Laboratories (Rising Damp)	535
☐	6744 Rentokil Laboratories Ltd. (Woodworm)	512
☐	6714 R. J. (Manchester) Ltd.	636
*	6715 Rowe & Pascoe	636
☐	6716 Rusticraft	637
☐	7326 Smithwaite, G., & Sons	637
*	7328 Swisscross Ltd.	636
☐	8533 Thomsons (Carron) Ltd.	525
☐	8522 Tilley Lamp Co. Ltd.	628
☐	8510 Tradex Meter Co. Ltd.	638
☐	8511 Transletters Ltd.	638
☐	8917 Venetian Blind Co.	636
☐	9105 W. D. & H. O. Wills (Golden Virginia)	616
☐	9106 Westin, W. S., Ltd.	637
☐	9137 Winemakers Equipment	636

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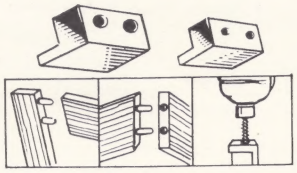

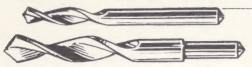

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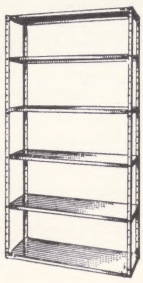

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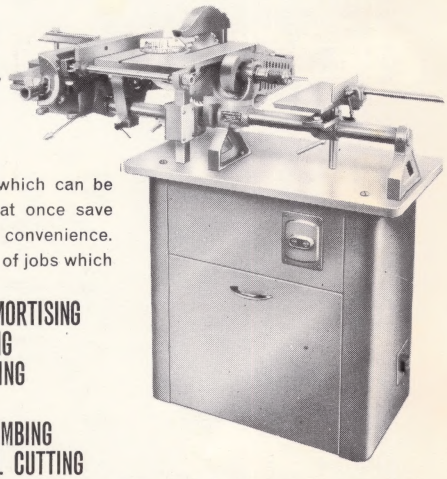
You will amaze yourself (and your friends) with the wonderful variety of really professional jobs which Coronet Universal Woodworking Machines make so easy.



Compact and really powerful, these machines give you a complete home workshop in a single unit. Cleverly designed Coronet attachments which can be mounted up to three at once save time and give added convenience. Just look at the range of jobs which they will perform:

CIRCULAR SAWING · MORTISING
PLANING AND REBATING
THICKNESSING · TURNING
SPINDLE MOULDING
WOBBLE-SAWING · COMBING
BAND SAWING · PANEL CUTTING

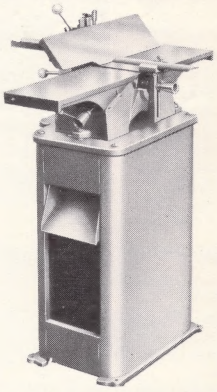
—if you're a craftsman at heart let Coronet make you a craftsman at home!

CORONET

The CAPITOL Range

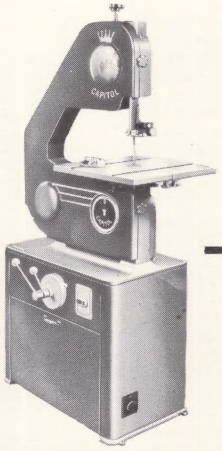
INDEPENDENT

7″ PLANER & THICKNESSER



A high performance precision built machine specially designed for planing and thicknessing both soft and hard woods. Includes many innovations normally only found on much more costly machines. Safe to operate, simple and positive to adjust — without spanners.

* ***All Coronet machines are available in cabinet and bench form.***



CAPITOL BANDSAW

Combines speed and safety with a wide range of uses. Handles large or small workpieces in soft or hard woods as well as plastics, laminates, aluminium, bronze, brass etc. Ideal for straight or curved work, or a combination of both.

Send for full illustrated details and prices of the machines featured in this advertisement, ticking in the appropriate box to indicate your particular interest.

I enclose stamps to the value of 8d.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

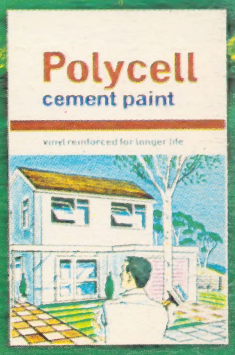
Please send me full details of the following Coronet Machines: PH

☐ Universal Range ☐ Capitol Planer ☐ Capitol Bandsaw

CORONET TOOL CO., ALFRETON ROAD, DERBY. Tel: 47508

costs less..lasts longer.. goes on easily

Polycell Cement Paint is a new outside finish which breaks through three barriers at once. *One,* it costs less, because it covers half as much area again as the next best brand – and just as thickly. *Two,* it lasts longer. Years and years, in fact, because it's reinforced with tough vinyl polymers. *Three,* it flows on effortlessly. In fact, Polycell Cement Paint is the only one which is easy to spray. There are a handful of other advantages, too, including the fact that with Polycell Cement Paint you mix your own colour shade. Protect your home, increase its value, improve its looks NOW with new Polycell Cement Paint.



NEW Polycell cement paint